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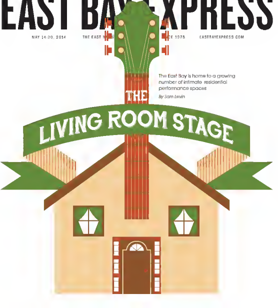

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*By Sam Levin*

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# NEWS & OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS
BACK IN THE CLOSET

## LETTERS

"Back in the Closet," Feature, 4/23

### Consistent Regulation

State pre-emption of local bans can and should be the absolute litmus test of any so-called legalization measure. We may not like to equate cannabis with alcohol and tobacco, but from a public policy standpoint the need for consistent statewide regulations has never been clearer. Our very best shot is going old-school with a voter-approved ballot initiative, and this time around we don't have to skimp on the legal details for "polling" or other intangibles.

*Michael Green, Fresno*

"ShotSpotter Lobbied Oakland Officials in Apparent Violation of Law," News, 4/30

### Higher Priorities

Why would councilmembers pay anything for ShotSpotter, which is useless without enough cops to respond quickly? What's with this belated fascination with tech solutions? A much higher priority should be finding money to pay for a 911 system that doesn't route cellphone calls through the California Highway Patrol before finally getting to the Oakland Police Department without your location information. But a working 911 system won't be much help either until OPD wins the trust and confidence of residents that cops will come when you need them, just like EMTs and fire trucks do — and that cops can protect people who testify against criminals.

*Len Raphael, Oakland*

### No Faith in Government

The salient points of this article are as follows. First, specific ethical requirements for registering lobbyists have been neglected by elected officials; second, elected officials are not listening to or taking the advice of the police chief, which forces the chief into the position of spending money for a technology which he does not think is a priority. No wonder citizens have no faith in Oakland government. Our know-nothing electeds invariably insist on making bad decisions despite expert advice to the contrary. Also no wonder that the office of chief of police has a revolving door.

*Michele Orin, Oakland*

### Corrupt from Top to Bottom

OPD officers have contempt for the city they "serve and protect." ShotSpotter is trying to make big money by feeding us questionable data to support its sales pitch. Our elected officials are in way over their heads, and city government is corrupt from top to bottom. Other than that, life's grand here in Oakland.

*John Seal, Oakland*

"The Rise of the Corporate Democrats," Full Disclosure, 4/30

### Need a Third Party

The two-party system is so corrupt that it can't be fixed. A third party is desperately needed — one that eschews corporate financing and favors, one that will make our cities and towns livable again and put America back on track, not as the world's bully policeman, but as a great and compassionate democracy.

*Steve Redmond, Berkeley*

[illegible], Feature, 4/23

### Enlightening Information

Amazing article! Thanks for enlightening us with this information. This kind of reporting is always helpful for our society.

*Raul Rodriguez, Oakland*

### Stand Up Against Captivity

If anyone is interested in joining activists at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, there is an annual demo scheduled for May 24, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. called Empty the Tanks Worldwide. This is a day for everyone around the world to stand up against marine mammal captivity. The abuse and exploitation of these sentient beings has no place in the 21st century. Last year we had about eight people at the park handing out leaflets and talking to park guests about how inappropriate captivity is for these complex creatures. This year we hope to be bigger and louder. We currently have 39 locations participating in 19 different countries. Please find us on Facebook for more info: bit.ly/ETT2014

*Lisa Robles, Oakland*

### Support Is Needed Now

Assemblymember Richard Bloom's AB 2140 has been held over for "interim study." Another hearing and vote will likely be held in early 2015 before the Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee, chaired by Assemblymember Anthony Rendon (who is a strong supporter of AB 2140 on ethical grounds).

Other members of this fifteen-member committee are Frank Bigelow, Travis Allen, Raul Bocanegra, Brian Dahle, Paul Fong, Jim Frazier, Beth Gaines, Mike Gatto, Jimmy Gomez, Lorena Gonzalez, Adam Gray, Jim Patterson, Freddie Rodriguez and Mariko Yamada — ten Democrats and five Republicans. (Note: Beth Fong and Yamada are termed out this year.)

Support letters are needed now. All legislators may be written care of the state capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. And write to the new incoming Speaker of the Assembly, Assemblymember Toni Atkins (D-San Diego). She's a big fan of SeaWorld, and will wield considerable power over the Democratic caucus. Follow the money.

*Eric Mills, coordinator, Action for Animals, Oakland*

"The Failure of Berkeley's Living Wage Law," News

## No Good Business Sense

In my experience, many people believe that there is corruption at virtually every level of our government. The City of Berkeley clearly has provided the opportunity for LAZ Parking to do right by its employees, to clear up its record for the apparently small number of people involved, and thus to be eligible for a large, lucrative contract. Anyone with common sense would take care of this immediately if they wished to avoid negative publicity and compete fairly for a contract. The mystery is why LAZ (are they missing a Y from their name?) Parking has not taken care of the matter; if they have good business sense, they should.

*Judith Rothbaum, Oakland*

## Bin Problem on Lakeshore

Good article, but it's a pity that you didn't interview my neighbor Ken Katz, who is the one who has pushed for a solution to this citywide blight. By the way, we have a big problem with the bins on Lakeshore, and, no, USAgain does not clean up the bins or the area around them, nor does anyone answer the 800 number.

*Pamela Drake, Oakland*

News 4/16

## Connecting the Dots

Housing is overpriced. Real estate is overpriced and restrictions must be placed on the accumulation of real estate by one company, family, or individual. First, all jobs should be paid at living wage. There is really no such thing as a "training job" or a "beginner job" (you're thinking of the chores you were given as a kid). The most important jobs are the lowest paid, and without those people you presume are not smart enough or not educated enough we would all be swimming in bacteria and garbage. Some of us are good producers and hard workers, but lack the groveling obedience or tolerance for being caged in an office to be part of a workforce, which, were it to disappear tomorrow, would not likely be missed for some hours or days — unlike when you are waiting for that minimum wage clerk.

Tepperman's article is right on! Finally someone is connecting the dots between how we are hurt by real estate speculation and the myriad, cascading effects of the social ills it generates.

*JJ Noore, Oakland*

## NIMBY Labeling

Indeed, as Ms. [Zoe] Leavitt [of the Alameda County Health Department] notes, residents of existing neighborhoods and their needs, as defined by themselves, should define the nature of development, if any, in their neighborhoods. Alas, when they attempt to do so, they are called NIMBYs.

*Mary Eisenhart, Oakland*

Oyster Cove … Opinion 4/…

## Protecting Public Lands

Thank you, Environmental Action Committee, for protecting our public lands!

*Jeff Miller, Point Reyes Station*

Miscellaneous

## Enough Is Enough

I am convinced that the "Coliseum City" idea is simply a means by which Mayor Jean Quan can divert the public's attention from the ugly realities confronting Oakland. Tease the public with visions of sports palaces here in town and make them forget about the fiscal nightmare confronting the taxpayers as huge unfunded obligations come due and payable. Why would anyone invest private funds in any ballpark when they can get gullible, desperate politicians to get the taxpayers to foot the bill for them? The Warriors' assertion that they are not obligated to make payments on the bonded indebtedness on the Oracle Arena remodel is proof positive that sports teams are unreliable, disloyal partners for any municipality.

Quan hopes that these pretty pictures of glistening ballparks will intoxicate the public sufficiently so that we forget about the appalling state of affairs hereabouts. As if keeping the ball teams makes any difference whatsoever in our quality of life. Sure, if millionaires playing games is what people want then let them pay for it. Rich folks employing rich ballplayers have no business burdening the taxpayers. I don't understand how anybody at City Hall can justify the amount of staff time devoted to the retention of pro sports teams. This is private business, stop wasting our resources on this foolish, futile exercise. The absurd expense in the not-so-long ago renovation and expansion of the Coliseum is still on the books, unpaid, and repayment will be the taxpayer's responsibility. Enough is enough.

*Jonathan C. Brandt, Oakland*

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SEVEN DAYS

# OAKLAND NEEDS TOUGHER ETHICS RULES

### A new comprehensive plan proposed by Councilmember Dan Kalb and good government activists could go a long way to restoring faith in City Hall

By Robert Gammon

Following a series of corruption scandals that have rocked the state capital, lawmakers in Sacramento have been rushing to implement stricter ethics rules during the past few months. Although it's disheartening that the state legislature didn't act until elected officials were arrested, indicted, and convicted, the proposed reforms are welcome nonetheless. Likewise, Oakland City Hall would be smart to push for ethics reform this year — and not wait until it suffers its own corruption scandal.

In fact, Oakland's ethics and corruption laws have long needed an overhaul. Last year, the Alameda County Grand Jury rightly criticized Oakland's public ethics regulations for being weak and ineffectual. In addition, the city council has starved the Oakland Public Ethics Commission (PEC) of funds over the years. As a result, the city's regulations are not only insufficient, but the watchdog agency in charge of investigating and enforcing the rules has been unable to effectively do so because of a lack of funds.

However, Councilmember Dan Kalb and a group of good government activists in Oakland, including the League of Women Voters, are now proposing a comprehensive plan to upgrade the city's ethics rules and enforcement. Late last week, the group announced its proposal for a November 2014 ballot measure that would strengthen the city's regulations and guarantee staffing for the PEC. In addition, the group wants an ordinance that would establish new anti-corruption, conflicts-of-interest, and code-of-conduct regulations for elected officials. The plan was developed over the past several months and is based on the best practices of other large cities.

"The public wants to feel better about government, and we need to prove that we can do that" for city residents, said Kalb, who represents North Oakland and ran for office in 2012 on a platform of restoring transparency and trust in government. "This has been an issue that has been building for a number of years."

The new ethics blueprint also is just the first phase of the plan. Later this year, Kalb and the Oakland Ethics and Good Government Working Group intend to propose tougher campaign finance, lobbying, and ethics laws for the city. "For the people of Oakland to retain faith in their city government, they need to be assured that adequate structures are in place to keep it fair, open, and ethical," said Oakland League of Women Voters President Katherine Gavzy, a member of the working group that developed the blueprint, in a statement.

Under current Oakland law, the Public Ethics Commission typically deals with campaign finance, lobbying, and open government violations in the city. But the PEC has historically been understaffed, because councilmembers — who are required to follow the city's campaign finance and open government rules — routinely withhold funds from the agency. It's a classic case of the fox guarding the henhouse.

The PEC, as result, operates on an annual shoestring budget of just $300,000 and has only two full-time staffers, including its executive director, Whitney Barazoto. The lack of funds and staffing means that the agency can't effectively investigate complaints of official wrongdoing. By comparison, San Francisco's ethics commission has a staff of seventeen and a robust annual operating budget of $2.2 million.

Under the new proposal, city voters would be asked to approve a minimum staffing of seven full-time positions for Oakland's Public Ethics Commission. The plan is based on a similar mandate in the City of San Diego. Over the next several months, the working group also plans to consider new ways to fund the PEC, including an annual fee on local campaign committees based on how much money they raise. Other cities also levy hefty registration fees on lobbyists to help finance ethics watchdog agencies.

In addition, the blueprint proposes giving the PEC more autonomy by making it tougher to remove commissioners and staffers. The proposal also would change a current law that allows the mayor to appoint three members to the commission and would give one of those appointments to the city attorney and the city auditor, respectively. The plan also proposes strengthening ethics requirements for the commissioners themselves, and to allow them to serve longer terms.

The plan also calls for greatly expanding the authority and duties of the PEC to investigate and penalize ethical wrongdoing. The PEC, for example, would have the power to formally reprimand or censure councilmembers for illegally interfering in the city's administrative affairs. The PEC also would have the power to investigate and enforce the city's anti-nepotism law, conflicts-of-interest rules, and whistleblowers' protection law.

The plan also would eliminate the maximum fine of $1,000 that can currently be imposed by the PEC, replacing it with stiffer fines based on the severity of the wrongdoing. The PEC also would have the power to enforce code-of-conduct rules on the mayor, city attorney, city auditor, and city administrator. The proposal also calls for establishing "revolving-door restrictions" that would prohibit city officials, after they leave office, from accepting work with employers to whom they awarded government contracts.

In short, the plan is excellent — and one that Oakland desperately needs. Kalb and the blueprint will get its first public airing soon in front of the Public Ethics Commission. In the meantime, it's available for review on Kalb's council District One website. He's planning to ask his fellow councilmembers to vote in late July to put a city charter amendment on the November ballot and to approve changes to existing laws in order to strengthen Oakland's ethics regulations.

Let's hope he's successful, because good government reforms in Oakland are long overdue. ●

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# ARE FORECLOSURE CASES RIGGED?

The financial ties that many judges have to banks raise questions about conflicts of interest and a bias against homeowners victimized by mortgage fraud.

By Darwin BondGraham

In early 2006, as California's real estate bubble was beginning to burst, an elderly Los Angeles couple, Fannie Mae and Milton Gaines, fell behind on their mortgage payments and received a notice of default from their lender, Countrywide Home Loans. Hoping to avoid foreclosure, the couple agreed to a plan suggested by Countrywide: They would obtain a loan modification provided by a third party, a businessman named Joshua Tornberg. What the Gaineses didn't know, however, was that Tornberg was the fiancée of the Countrywide employee who made the recommendation. And instead of saving the Gaineses' house, Tornberg scammed the elderly couple, recorded an altered deed, and extracted $240,000 from the property before walking away, according to court documents.

Then things really went to hell. In August 2006, Milton Gaines died, leaving his wife to battle two banks, a title company, a mortgage servicer, and Tornberg. Fannie Mae Gaines filed suit against Countrywide, Tornberg, and others involved in the fraud. Then, in 2005, she passed away too, but their son pressed forward with the lawsuit.

The case, however, was tied up in Los Angeles County Superior Court for six years as Countrywide and the other defendants filed counter-motions and stalled. Countrywide eventually reached a settlement with the Gaines family, but the company's actions, and the alleged fraud its employee initiated, remained central to the case against the other defendants. Further mediation with those defendants — Fidelity National Title Company, Lehman Brothers bank, Aurora Loan Servicing, and Tornberg — ultimately failed. In August 2012, a superior court judge dismissed the case on a legal technicality: It had taken more than five years to come to trial. The Gaineses' lawyers appealed, but two Second Appellate District Court judges denied the appeal, tallying yet another victory for the banking industry.

One of the appellate court judges on the three-judge panel that heard the case penned a dissenting opinion. "This case was one of hundreds, perhaps thousands of lawsuits that grew out of the financial meltdown," explained Justice Laurence Rubin. Writing that he would have reversed the superior court's ruling entirely, Rubin concluded, "[I]n my view the dismissal of this lawsuit under the circumstances described defeats the substantial ends of justice. Instead, it rewards parties who, it would appear, have played a major and unlawful role in the theft of someone's home."

The Gaines case was one of thousands of similar losses by California homeowners in state courts during the past several years. The legal setbacks have demoralized homeowners and their attorneys and caused them to question the integrity of California's justice system. Some attorneys who have sparred with the giants of the real estate industry say California's courts exhibit an institutional bias in favor of the banks. The banks are said to be too big to fail and too big to jail.

"My experience was that there was a general institutional bias towards business," added Donald Adams, Jr., a former attorney who represented homeowners against banks and mortgage servicers during the past six years. "There was a cynicism that an individual borrower challenging a lender's loan practices was driven by economic motivations only."

Adams believes that the deference most judges have shown to the banks has done enormous damage to the economy. "Had courts enforced the law against the lenders the Great Recession did not have to occur," he said. "Many of us were after the New Centurys, the Ameriquests, and Countrywides well before the collapse. Even after the economy imploded, most judges did their best to protect the business interests of the predatory lenders by cynically not wanting to let the consumers off the hook" for taking out loans they had trouble paying back.

THERE'S ALSO THE ISSUE OF THE POTENTIAL ECONOMIC MOTIVES OF THE JUDGES THEMSELVES. THE JUDGES WHO DISMISSED THE GAINES CASE HAD SIGNIFICANT PERSONAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS IN BANKS.

Homeowners, of course, weren't the only parties in court looking out for their economic interests. The banks have resisted lawsuits brought under state consumer protection laws in order to maximize their profits from the foreclosure crisis.

But there's also the issue of the potential economic motives of the judges themselves. For example, the two appellate court judges who dismissed the Gaines case had significant personal financial investments in banks and mortgage lending companies, public records show.

Judge Elizabeth Grimes, who voted against the Gaineses, owned between $100,000 and $1 million worth of stock in Bank of America, according to official records maintained by the state Fair Political Practices Commission. Bank of America purchased Countrywide in 2008. According to the state Code of Judicial Ethics, judges are required to disqualify themselves from any case in which they own stock or bonds with a fair market value exceeding $1,500.

"By the time the case came up for appeal, Countrywide was no longer a party to the action," Joseph Lane, clerk of the Court of Appeal for the Second Appellate District, wrote in an email, explaining why it wasn't considered a conflict of interest for Grimes to be involved in the appellate ruling.

But records show that Bank of America wasn't Grimes' only large investment in

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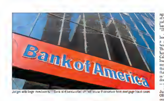

Judges with large investments in Bank of America often do not recuse themselves from mortgage fraud cases.

the banking sector. She also owns between $100,000 and $1 million of stock in Wells Fargo and US Bank, and between $10,000 and $100,000 in Citibank, giving her potentially a multimillion-dollar interest in the profitability of the mortgage lending industry.

In addition, Judge Patricia Bigelow, who wrote the majority opinion against the Gomeses, owned possibly as much as $10,000 worth of stock in Bear Stearns, an investment bank that was responsible for securitizing billions in mortgage loans in the 2000s. Bear Stearns was bought by JPMorgan Chase in 2008. Even the dissenting judge, Rubin, had a stake in the mortgage industry, owning thousands of dollars worth of Wells Fargo stock. And the Los Angeles County Superior Court judge who originally dismissed the case, Rolf Treu, owned as much as $10,000 worth of stock in Citibank.

Patricia Rodriguez, an attorney who has brought homeowner lawsuits in multiple counties, said judge ownership of financial company stocks is just more evidence of the broader justice system bias in favor of banks and against homeowners. "In general, the judges are unfair to borrowers," she said. "I've seen cases where the judge made a prejudiced statement before trial, saying of a plaintiff, she's 'trying to get a free house.'"

Potential conflicts of interest have been common over the past six years as the courts have been flooded with cases of homeowners suing their mortgage lenders and servicers. Forty-two of California's 105 appellate court judges (or 40 percent of the bench) own significant amounts of stock in at least one financial company. Seventeen justices disclosed owning stock or bonds in Bank of America in 2012, the most of any bank, followed by Citibank with ten judges owning at least $2,000 in securities. Five judges own stock or bonds in JPMorgan Chase, while four judges have investments in Wells Fargo. These four banks are the largest mortgage lenders and servicers in California, and also the most commonly sued by homeowners for alleged illegal practices tied to foreclosure or defrauding consumers.

Public records also show that judges sometimes appear to have direct conflicts of interest. In 2012, for example, the Second District Appellate Court ruled in favor of Bank of America and threw out a lawsuit brought by Daniel and Yvette Shuster of Simi Valley. The Shusters alleged a wrongful foreclosure and breach of contract. One of the judges who ruled in that the case, Arthur Gilbert, held stock in four different financial companies that originate or service home mortgage loans, including shares worth as much as $10,000 in the defendant Bank of America.

In 2011, the Second District Appellate Court granted Bank of America's petition to dismiss charges of fraud against it in another case. And then the following year, the same court tossed out another fraud case against Bank of America and Countrywide. One of the judges who ruled in favor of Bank of America in both of these cases — Judge Joan Klein — owned thousands of dollars worth of stock in the company. Klein disclosed owning at least $12,000 in Bank of America stock in 2011 and 2012. She also disclosed owning at least $10,000 in Citibank stock.

Neither Klein nor Gilbert responded to requests for comment for this report. Judges who fail to recuse themselves from cases in which they have a direct conflict of interest may be disciplined by California's Commission on Judicial Performance. However, the commission rarely metes out stiff sanctions to judges.

Some legal observers, however, believe that judges aren't swayed ideologically by their individual financial portfolios or their economic interests in the mortgage industry. "If a judge owns a nominal, or small amount of stock in a company that comes before him, it's not a sure thing a judge should have disqualified himself," said Charles Geyh, a professor of Law at Indiana University who studies judicial ethics.

According to Geyh, it's not uncommon for judges to manage personal investment portfolios that include major corporations, many of which often come before the courts. Judges begin their legal careers as lawyers, often amassing considerable wealth before ascending to the bench. Geyh said it's typical for people of their economic profile to have diversified stock holdings that include financial institutions.

Geyh added that many lawsuits against banks are small cases, unlikely themselves to have any measurable or long-term impact on the value of a bank's stock. "Let's say it's a small case in which the impact on the company will be marginal — then it's probably not a big deal," said Geyh, drawing the conclusion that a judge won't feel disinclined to rule for a plaintiff against a bank if his or her case is solid.

But attorney Patricia Rodriguez said the fact that so many judges have significant financial investments in the banking and mortgage industry means that they're inclined to rule against homeowners because a string of cases against the banks could reduce the profitability of the entire sector. "They don't want to be the judge that allows forty million mortgages to go back to the borrowers," Rodriguez continued. "They don't want to possibly set a precedent."

A series of cases decided in favor of homeowners against the banks could establish a precedent that would make it easier for borrowers to win lawsuits against their banks. The banks losing more often in court could have sweeping impacts on their profitability in California because they would have to absorb loan write-downs, rescind foreclosure sales, and modify loans in the favor of borrowers. Under this scenario, the stock prices of all the banks that conduct mortgage lending and servicing in California — many of the same banks that dozens of California judges own large stakes in — would likely be negatively affected.

But Cathal Conneely, a spokesperson for the Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts, argued that the widespread ownership of financial company stocks and bonds by the appellate court judges isn't an ethical or legal problem. "Not in the context of the checks and balances that exist within the justice system, or in terms of the integrity of the judiciary."

"Justices are required to submit their Form 700s to the California Fair Political Practices Commission annually," said Conneely, referring to the disclosure documents I used for this report to identify which and how many judges own financial company stocks and bonds. "Judges and justices swear an oath, abide by a code of judicial ethics, receive two mandatory ethics trainings when they take office, followed by additional required ethics training once every three years; and they are subject to review by the Commission on Judicial Performance."

Geyh said the difficulty borrowers are having with banks in and out of court might be more likely due to systems outside the courts, and not under the control of the judges, that empower banks over their customers in lots of settings. "You can't blame the judge," he said. "You blame a regulatory structure that is entrenched.

"You have a period in time in which there's a lot of sympathy for homeowners," Geyh continued. "Add to that the judges own a significant chunk of the industry, it's bound to create bad feelings and perception issues."

These issues of fairness, real or perceived, reach down to California's trial courts as well. In Alameda County, fifteen superior court judges disclosed ownership of stocks or bonds in financial companies in their most recently available disclosure filings. Eight Alameda County judges own stock in Bank of America, four in Wells Fargo, and two in JPMorgan Chase, and two in GMAC, the mortgage lending arm of General Motors that is now named Ally Bank. One-third of Santa Clara County Superior Court judges own stock or bonds in financial companies, with the most common investments being JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, and Citibank.

"It was very clear that there is one form of justice for the small borrower and another form of justice for the moneyed interests," said attorney Adams, who is retired and who, as a result, says he is now free to state these things publicly without fear. "It pains me to say that, but having seen the real estate debacle and the judiciary's protection of these fraudulent practices, I have reluctantly come to that conclusion." ●

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4 Battery capacity has been expanded, but Forbes reviewer found it couldn't quite stand up to the demands of a work day
5 There may be a new and improved version rumored to be called Prime, coming out within the next year so don't get too attached.

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# DEM VERSUS DEM IN EAST BAY CONGRESSIONAL RACE

Incumbent Eric Swalwell may have a tougher time this year because he's facing Democratic Senate Majority Leader Ellen Corbett.

By Steven Tavares

Two years ago, Eric Swalwell ended Pete Stark's four decades in Congress in one of the biggest political upsets in East Bay history. While Swalwell, a former Dublin city councilmember, was the benefactor of Stark's numerous missteps during the campaign, he also successfully positioned himself with voters in the 15th Congressional District as the candidate who would usher in an era of change and new ideas. This time around, his reelection campaign is attempting to rekindle a similar message for the future, but his main opponent this June, Democratic State Senate Majority Leader Ellen Corbett, appears to offer a more formidable challenge. She is nearly as well-known in the district as Stark was and is unlikely to commit the large number of mistakes that effectively put the congressional seat up for grabs two years ago.

In 2012, Swalwell's victory was also the product of blistering personal attacks that he launched at Stark and his family. An essential premise of Swalwell's campaign was to portray Stark as old, frail, and out of touch with East Bay voters. Swalwell followed it up with attacks on Stark's young children for receiving Social Security benefits, along with hits on Stark's wife.

Eric Swalwell

During this primary season, however, Swalwell has refrained from going after his opponents while instead focusing mostly on himself. Earlier this month, however, he briefly indicated that he might soon resort to negative tactics when he attempted to link Corbett, in her role as State Senate majority leader, to the notorious trio of Democrats who have been indicted on corruption charges or have already been found guilty of crimes in the Legislature's upper house. Assemblymember Bob Wieckowski, who is running for the State Senate seat that shares the same geographical area of the 15th Congressional District, is employing a similar line of attack when it comes to his opponent — former Assemblymember Mary Hayashi, who was convicted of shoplifting a few years ago. Both Swalwell and Wieckowski share the same political consultant, Lisa Tucker.

As for Corbett, she has seemed reluctant to attack Swalwell so far, although she's tried several times in the last month to highlight his vote in April 2013 in favor of the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA), which would allow government to monitor personal web histories without a warrant. For his part, Swalwell has repeatedly sidestepped questions over his vote and instead focused on another one — a budget amendment in July 2013 in which he voted to cut funding for an NSA program that was seizing cellphone metadata without a warrant. "There was one vote on the NSA spying program, just one vote in the Congress," Swalwell said during a candidate's forum April 24 in Fremont, "and that vote was to defund the program and I voted to defund the program.

"There's a reason I did that, and it wasn't easy because I was a prosecutor and for seven years I used cellphone data to prove many of my cases," Swalwell continued, "but in each and every one of those cases I had to go to a judge and I had to get a warrant — I had to show probable cause that I could go in and invade the privacy of the person whose cell phone record I was seeking to use."

In the same forum, Corbett said, "The role of Congress is to protect citizens and, again, one of our most important, precious things is our personal privacy. It is Congress' role to ensure an agency such as the NSA performs the role it was set up to do, not unduly intrude upon the privacy of individuals." When it came to CISPA, Corbett later added, "one member of the California delegation voted for that measure," that person being Swalwell.

Corbett also will likely be a much more active opponent for Swalwell this year than Stark was two years ago — when the eighty-year-old Congressmember struggled to match Swalwell's retail-style, door-to-door politics. Corbett, like Swalwell, has had her share of running campaign upsets that first began in the 1990s when she ended the decades-long old boys network that ran San Leandro politics and won a surprise victory for mayor. She followed that up with a six-year stint in the state Assembly. Then, in 2006, she surprised many political observers when she won a hard-fought victory for state Senate, defeating Democratic Assemblymen Johan Klehs and John A. Dutra. She won the general election later that year and, again, four years later.

Ellen Corbett

Swalwell's first term in Washington, meanwhile, has been rather uneventful, although that was to be expected considering the steep learning curve he faced, and the fact that he was serving in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives. During this year's campaign, Swalwell has attempted to make up for his lack of success in Congress by pointing to his somewhat mundane accomplishments since 2012. For example, he often has pointed to a running tally of the miles that he's flown between the district and Washington in apparent attempt to prove how hard he works — his total now stands at 325,000 miles since January 2013. He also has boasted about attending 1,100 public meetings, co-sponsoring 258 House bills, and delivering 60 floor speeches. More notably, in March, President Obama signed into law Swalwell's first bill, allowing charitable donations to the Filipino Typhoon Haiyan relief fund to be included on 2013 tax returns. At a forum a few weeks later, Swalwell touted the fact that he was in a first place tie with three other freshman Democrats who had passed bills into law during their first term. They each had one.

Swalwell and Corbett, though, appear to be saving their ammunition for the general election in November — assuming that they'll finish as the top two vote-getters in the June primary. The 15th Congressional District includes Castro Valley and Hayward and spreads east to Livermore and south to Fremont.

To date, Swalwell holds the fundraising edge, as wealthy donors and special interests groups have flocked to him since he won in 2012. Through the first campaign finance reporting period of this year, Swalwell had $922,581 in the bank. Corbett's fundraising, by contrast, has been inconsistent, even though she had hinted that she would run for Congress this year even before the November 2012 election. Through March, her campaign account stood at $208,005 in cash. The third candidate in the race, Alameda County Republican Party co-chair Hugh Bussell, reported just $1,950 in campaign funds.

SWALWELL AND CORBETT APPEAR TO BE SAVING THEIR AMMUNITION FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER — ASSUMING THAT THEY'LL FINISH AS THE TOP TWO VOTE-GETTERS IN THE JUNE PRIMARY.

The role of the Republican in this race could also be a factor: it was two years ago when a little-known candidate named Chris Pareja piggy-backed on the anti-Stark sentiment at the time to win nearly 22 percent of the primary vote. Bussell, a Livermore native, does not have the same foil at his disposable this time around, however. He also has eschewed the Tri Valley's small Tea Party contingent for a more mainstream conservative ideology. For example, he urges a wait-and-see approach to the Affordable Care Act. He also has advocated for a flat tax on all income and certain conditions for undocumented immigrants to gain citizenship. Once, Swalwell admonished Bussell for using the term "illegals." But Bussell has also routinely skewered Swalwell and Corbett's background as attorneys. At a candidate's forum on May 2 in Hayward, Bussell mocked Swalwell's prodigious frequent-flier miles. "I will fly more miles than Eric," Bussell boasted with a grin. ●

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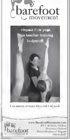

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The C.W. "Bill" Jones Pumping Plant is just outside Byron, a small town that likely will be greatly impacted by the new water tunnels. US Bureau of Reclamation

# The Water Tunnel Boondoggle

### Experts say the eye-popping costs of Governor Brown's plan to build two giant water tunnels far outweigh the financial benefits. And taxpayers may be left holding the bag.

By Joaquin Palomino

The small town of Byron is one of the last rural outposts of the East Bay. While its neighbors in east Contra Costa County — Brentwood, Oakley, and Antioch — have grown rapidly over the years, Byron has more or less stayed the same. "By Nebraska standards we're not rural, but by California standards we're very rural," said Cathy Leighton, a local historian whose family has lived in the small town for seven generations. "Most people here have a horse in their backyard."

Yet while Byron might be easy to miss, it is by no means insignificant. Located in the southern portion of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, the town of 1,000 is next to the epicenter of California's water system. Just outside the town's limits is the C.W. "Bill" Jones Pumping Plant, a feat of engineering that propels trillions of gallons of Delta water into aqueducts that irrigate more than 3 million acres of the San Joaquin Valley. Also close is the Clifton Court Forebay, a massive reservoir that stores freshwater for 25 million Southern Californians. If the state were a living animal, the immense facilities in and around Byron would be its heart; without them, water would stop flowing.

The town and the state's water infrastructure have peacefully coexisted for decades, but that could change dramatically if California moves forward with Governor Jerry Brown's Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). The $25 billion public works project includes two giant water tunnels that would tap into the Sacramento River and ship its water south. The plan, which also calls for the creation of more than 100,000 acres of wetlands in the region, is designed to address myriad problems plaguing both the Delta and the state's water system as well.

The Delta's ecosystem has been in an environmental free fall since the state and federal water projects were completed in the 1960s and early '70s. Since then, fish species have gone extinct, and geologists now worry that an earthquake or rising sea levels could topple levees in the area and contaminate the state's freshwater supply with saltwater. In addition, state and federal officials often must halt water deliveries to agricultural interests and Southern California residents in order to protect fish that have been decimated because of the lack of freshwater. The BDCP, in theory, would solve these problems, while ensuring that farms and residents receive a more consistent supply of water.

Byron, though, could be severely impacted. The state plans to construct a new water forebay near town, as well as a cement-mixing facility, in addition to the tunnels. Both would require a massive fleet of heavy machinery that would operate for up to ten years, causing noise pollution and potentially filling the region's air with diesel particulates. Air quality could become so bad that being outside would pose a cancer risk to children and the elderly, along with people with existing health problems. Nancy Vogel, of the Department of Water Resources, said only one household would be asked to move, but some think that number could quickly inflate. "Air moves pretty swiftly with our Delta winds," said Contra Costa County Supervisor and Bay Area Air Quality Management District board member Mary Piepho, who represents the region. "I can't see how Brentwood and Discovery Bay wouldn't be impacted as well."

Leighton lives a stone's throw away from the Byron Highway in an area that's expected to be heavily affected by air pollution. But she said she won't move without a fight. "This home has been in the family for over one hundred years," she explained. "I'm pretty dedicated to it."

The potential impacts of BDCP on Byron are representative of what the plan would do to the Delta region as a whole. The tunnels would unearth a roughly 40-mile long, 150-foot deep fissure that could cut off groundwater to scores of people. Tens of thousands of acres of fertile farmland would be converted to habitat, potentially devastating the area's economy. Highways would be completely rearranged and waterways polluted. "We will be left with an industrial eyesore," said Barbara Barrigan-Parilla, executive director of Restore the Delta, a group adamantly opposed to BDCP. "The area would essentially become an environmental wasteland."

The project — along with the costs of mitigating the damage wrought by it — also promises to be hugely expensive. Two water agencies — the Westlands Water District, which services about seven hundred farms in a vast strip of desert in the western San Joaquin Valley, and the Metropolitan Water District, which supplies 19 million Southern Californians with water — plan to cover the majority of the costs of the tunnels, an estimated $15 billion, along with any economic damage they cause to the Delta.

But even as the project's public comment period draws to a close next month, the state has yet to develop a clear financial plan for the tunnels. Moreover, the relatively few financial facts that do exist are hotly contested. The Department of Water Resources, for example, often states that the entire plan will cost a total

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Byron resident Cathy Leighton said she won't leave without a fight. Joaquin Palomino

of $25 billion, yet many economists think that, when interest on the bonds is factored in, the true figure will run closer to $70 billion.

In terms of benefits, state officials say the tunnels will generate an overall net gain of roughly $5 billion for California's economy. But other water experts contend the plan could actually result in an annual net loss of about $100 million a year for water contractors backing the project.

Some experts, in fact, predict that the BDCP is destined to become a financial boondoggle, and that certain public agencies — namely San Joaquin Valley water districts like Westlands — would have an especially hard time meeting their debt obligations since the cost of the tunnels could make water prohibitively expensive for farming most crops. "I'm not sure how they would cope with the financial burden," said Jeffrey Michael, director of the Business and Forecasting Center at University of the Pacific in Stockton. "It's fairly predictable they won't be able to."

If the water districts default on what they owe for the BDCP project, taxpayers may be forced to shoulder the multibillion-dollar bill. And if that were to happen, the plan that is supposed to keep California's aging water system from crumbling could not only steamroll the Delta, but also swamp the state in debt.

Most of the snowmelt and rainfall in the Sierra Nevada and the Trinity Alps drain into the Delta via the Sacramento River in the north and the San Joaquin River in the south, creating a labyrinth of waterways, islands, and levees. This veritable water world has made the Delta an ecological and agricultural wonder. The estuary is a crucial spawning ground for salmon, sturgeon, and bass and a key stopover for millions of migratory birds traveling the Pacific flyway. The Delta itself also includes an agricultural industry consisting primarily of small farms, valued at nearly $800 million a year. Certain Delta towns are known as the pear or asparagus capitals of the world thanks to their continuously replenished aquifers.

The abundance of freshwater has also made the Delta the wellspring for California's water system, and since the 1940s the state and federal government have redirected rivers of water from the estuary to San Joaquin Valley growers and Southern California city dwellers. That massive removal of fresh water has taken its toll on the Delta's ecosystem, contributing to the decimation of 12 of the area's 29 native fish species.

Environmental problems in the Delta also have a ripple effect on California's water users. When protected fish get sucked into the water pumps and pulverized, regulatory agencies halt water deliveries and send billions of gallons of freshwater through the bay to the Pacific Ocean in an attempt to maintain the health of the estuary. And if the Delta's ecosystem continues to deteriorate, the water supply for Central and Southern California could diminish by roughly 25 percent in the next half-century.

"I'M NOT SURE HOW THEY WOULD COPE WITH THE FINANCIAL BURDEN," MICHAEL SAID OF THE WATER AGENCIES THAT ARE SUPPOSED TO PAY FOR THE TUNNELS. "IT'S FAIRLY PREDICTABLE THAT THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO."

"The current system is failing everybody," said UC Berkeley professor David Sunding, who's working closely with the state to develop the plan, "and BDCP points the ship in a different direction."

The project is ambitious. In fact, it's hard to overstate its grandeur. Building the tunnels is expected to cost roughly five times as much as the construction of the Hoover Dam when adjusting for inflation, and nearly a quarter of the Delta's mostly fertile farmland would be seized and literally turned upside down to create tidal wetlands. Despite its magnitude, however, a significant portion of the water project isn't subject to voter approval: The fate of the tunnels rests largely in the hands of a few water districts — a fact that frustrates many environmentalists. "We wouldn't ask

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## Alameda County Meals on Wheels

We support the delivery of nutritious meals to frail homebound seniors. Providing a meal, daily wellness check and smile, allowing seniors to live independently in their homes – where they want to be.

**FeedingSeniors.org**

This listing is sponsored by Piedmont Grocery

## East Bay SPCA

EBSPCA is an independent nonprofit proudly serving Alameda and Contra Costa Counties! Visit our website to see adoptable animals and learn about our medical, training and humane education services.

**EastBaySPCA.org**

This listing is sponsored by Drake's Brewing Company

## Coming of Age Bay Area

Looking for a change in your life? "Explore Your Future" is a fun, thought provoking 4-session self-discovery workshop for people 50+ starting Wednesday, June 4th in Berkeley.

**ComingofAge.org/BayArea/Explore-Your-Future**

## 51Oakland

51Oakland's mission is to inspire student [illegible], creativity, hard work, and self-esteem by strengthening the role of music and arts education in Oakland Public Schools.

**51Oakland.org**

This listing is sponsored by [illegible] Oakland

## Give Me Shelter Cat Rescue

Every day adult and senior cats with treatable medical and treatable conditions are euthanized. Give Me Shelter's goal is to rescue these cats and place them into loving permanent homes.

**GiveMeShelterSF.org**

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## Norml

NORML's mission is to legalize the responsible use of marijuana by adults, and serve as an advocate for marijuana consumers and [illegible]

**NORML.org**

This listing is sponsored by [illegible] Brigade

## Americans for Safe Access

Ensures safe and legal access to cannabis (marijuana) for therapeutic uses and research using public education and direct advocacy. ASA also provides legal support and uses impact litigation to protect and expand patients' rights. ASA brings the patient's voice to the table, and we shift the debate to the real concerns of patients: legal access to medicine and patients' civil rights.

**SafeAccessNow.org**

This listing is sponsored by 420 Evaluation Centers and Legionnaire Saloon

## Girls Inc. of Alameda County

We inspire girls to be strong, smart, and bold through vital educational programs, especially those in high-risk, underserved areas. We serve the whole girl and her family by providing on-site mental health counseling as well. We believe generations are transformed when girls are equipped with knowledge, information and inspiration. They grow up strong, smart and bold.

**GirlsInc-Alameda.org**

This listing is sponsored by The Star on Grand and Earth Circles Counseling Center

## Asian Art Museum

We lead a diverse global audience in discovering the unique material, aesthetic and intellectual achievements of Asian art and cultures, and to serve as a bridge of understanding between Asia and the United States and between the diverse cultures of Asia.

**AsianArt.org**

This listing is sponsored by Ajanta Restaurant

## Bay Area Girls Rock Camp

We empower girls through music, providing an environment that fosters self-confidence, creativity and teamwork. BAGRC challenges gender stereotypes, encourages collaboration, and tolerance among peers.

**BayAreaGirlsRockCamp.org**

## Museum of Children's Art

MOCHA is committed to providing quality hands-on art experiences for children and their families, particularly in at-risk communities. We provide training and tools for educators, parents and youth development professionals.

**MOCHA.org**

## Wardrobe for Opportunity

(WFO) empowers low-income individuals by acquiring interview skills, professional clothing and the career support needed to become economically self-sufficient. WFO has served nearly 14,000 individuals who face significant barriers.

**Wardrobe.org**

## Autism Speaks

We are the world's leading autism science and advocacy organization, dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders and advocating for their needs.

**AutismSpeaks.org**

This listing is sponsored by Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto

## Oakland Grown

We support and advocate for the growth and development of local, indie businesses and artists; encourage local purchasing by residents, businesses, and artists; and create opportunities for networking and sharing.

**OaklandGrown.org**

## Berkeley Free Clinic

We were founded as a "street medicine" clinic that quickly has served countless thousands in a variety of ways during its 40-year history. Fees have never been charged for any services, materials, medications or supplies provided.

**BerkeleyFreeClinic.org**

## Marine Mammal Center

We are a veterinary research hospital and educational center dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of ill and injured marine mammals — primarily elephant seals, harbor seals, and California sea lions. Since 1975, we've rescued and treated more than 18,000 marine mammals.

**MarineMammalCenter.org**

## Operation Dignity

We are veteran run, service-enriched provider serving the homeless veterans and displaced populations of Alameda County. Our goal is to provide safe housing, nutritious meals, and a full array of support so they can begin their reintegration process.

**OperationDignity.org**

This listing is sponsored by [illegible] Health Center

## East Bay Food Not Bombs

We started sharing meals at People's Park [illegible] give-away our surplus food [illegible] demonstrations at [illegible] Park in Oakland. We work in solidarity with other progressive groups at countless demonstrations, cultural events and gatherings over the years.

**EBFNB.org**

This listing is sponsored by Ashkenaz Music & Dance Center

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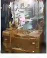

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**Café Q**, 2302 Encinal Ave
**Churchward Pub**, 1515 Park St
**Mama Papa Lithuania** 1241 Park St
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**Rosenblum Cellars** 2900 Main St
**Starbaby Studio** 1309 Park St
**Spritzer Café** 734 Central Ave

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**BBQ Hut**, 6400 Shattuck Ave
**Blick Art**, 811 University Ave
**Café Yesterday** 1122 University Ave
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**Games of Berkeley** 2151 Shattuck Ave
**[illegible]** 2121 San Pablo Ave
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**Herbivore** 2451 Shattuck Ave
**Kala Art Institute**, 1060 Heinz St
**La Peña Cultural Center**
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**The Brick Pig's House**, 5973 Shattuck Ave
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**Yoga Kula** 1700 Shattuck Ave

### OAKLAND

**Battambang** 850 Broadway
**Betti Ono Gallery** 1427 Broadway
**Bicycle Coffee**, 364 2nd St
**Bonnora Bakery** 3249 Grand Ave
**Charles Bladen Barber Spa** 401 2nd St
**Earth Circles Counseling Center**
560 Oakland Ave
**Earthly Coffee Shop**
5506 Martin Luther King Jr Way
**Feelmore** 1703 Telegraph Ave
**Field Day** 329 18th St
**Freelove Music School**, 1721 Broadway
**FoonBox**, 2311A Magnolia
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**Halmoni Vintage** 3601 2nd Ave
**Hot Rac Expresso Bar & Fine Art Gallery**,
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**Impact HUB**, 2323 Broadway
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**Kingfish Pub & Café** 5227 Claremont Ave
**Kalmbie**, 3258 Grand Ave
**Lake Merritt Dental** 1900 Webster St
**Legionnaire Saloon** 2272 Telegraph Ave
**Loakal Boutique & Gallery** 560 2nd St
**Lost & Found Beer Garden**
2040 Telegraph Ave
**Magnolia Wellness**, 161 Adeline St
**Mandela Market**, 1430 7th St
**Marcus Books**, 3900 Martin Luther King Jr Way
**Millkr** 2725 MacArthur Blvd
**The New Parkway Theater** 474 24th St
**Night Light**, 311 Broadway
**OakStop**, 1721 Broadway
**Peoples Donut Farm**, 3037 San Pablo Ave
**Piedmont Grocery** 4038 Piedmont Ave
**Pollinate Farm & Garden**
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**Resurrect**, 4135 Piedmont Ave
**Rockridge Library** 5366 College Ave
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**Two Mile Wine** 477 25th St

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**Cerrito Theater** 10070 San Pablo Ave
**El Cerrito Natural Grocery**
10367 San Pablo Ave
**Pikanhas Brazilian Steak House**,
25 W. Richmond Ave
**Richmond Arts Center** 2540 Barrett Ave
**Up & Under Restaurant**,
2 West Richmond Ave

### SAN LEANDRO

**City Hall** 835 E. 14th St
**Sabina's Coffee** 1273 MacArthur Blvd
**Sweet Fingers Jamaican Restaurant**,
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**Zocalo Coffee** 645 Bancroft Ave

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oil companies to determine if fracking is safe for the environment," said Doug Obegi, an attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council. "Should we really be asking Westlands if pumping is safe for the environment?"

Because farmers need a reliable water supply to maintain crops, San Joaquin Valley growers arguably have the most to gain from the water tunnels. The Westlands Water District, which irrigates a large swath of land on the arid west side of the San Joaquin Valley, has long sought access to more Delta water. As the *Express* previously reported, Westlands has seen an explosion in highly profitable, water-intensive crops like almonds in recent years (see "California's Thirsty Almonds," 2/5). While such crops bring in hefty financial returns, they can wither and die if water is cut off for even one year, meaning they're risky to grow in areas with an unsteady supply of irrigation.

"WE WOULDN'T ASK OIL COMPANIES TO DETERMINE IF FRACKING IS SAFE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT," OBEGI SAID. "SHOULD WE REALLY BE ASKING WESTLANDS IF PUMPING IS SAFE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?"

Because of the current drought, some 200,000 acres of Westlands farmland — about one-third of the area — could be fallowed this year, causing hundreds of millions of dollars in economic losses. "Just like you need a consistent paycheck to make your house payments," said Mike Wade, director of the California Farm Water Coalition, "farmers need a consistent water supply." And as the Delta becomes an increasingly unreliable spigot, Westlands is looking to the BDCP for relief.

But the plan also involves substantial risks for Westlands and other San Joaquin Valley farmers, because it doesn't guarantee a more dependable — let alone a more plentiful — water supply. According to the current draft proposal, the tunnels would only operate when water flows on the Sacramento River reach a certain threshold. During extremely dry years like the current one — which many climate scientists predict will become more common in the decades to come — the state and federal water projects would still reduce the region's water supply to a trickle or cut it off completely.

That fact troubles many San Joaquin Valley growers, who worry they could continue to face crippling water cutbacks even if the tunnels are constructed. "Our costs are somewhat nebulous, but [estimating the benefits of the project] is impossible to do," one grower said at a Westlands board meeting in January, according to a transcript of the meeting provided to the *Express* by Gary Lasky of the Sierra Club. "I want to be damn sure we have the right to get off the bus." Another farmer asked at the meeting whether the district could guarantee a stable water supply even if the Delta's ecosystem continues to deteriorate. "What happens if smelt and salmon continue to decline?" he said.

Westlands' general manager Tom Birmingham was unable to answer most of the farmers' questions head on, stressing that negotiations with the state and other water agencies that would benefit from the giant water tunnels were still ongoing. He was clear about one thing, however: Westlands will only move forward with BDCP if the project guarantees a steady and reliable water supply. "How in the world do you expect to ever cover the capital costs associated with this project if you can't deliver water to the only contractors who pay for it?" Birmingham said, referring to a past conversation he had with members of the Bureau of Reclamation. He later added: "There is a point at which we have to say 'No, we're not going forward.'"

Westlands' lukewarm support for the water plan is understandable. Building the tunnels is expected to cost San Joaquin Valley water districts an estimated $600 million a year in debt payments, with Westlands covering between 50 and 65 percent of the total, according to Westlands officials. Meanwhile, farmers would

Westlands farmers have planted thirsty crops like almonds in the desert.

Joaquin Palomino/File photo

Save Our Delta
STOP THE TUNNELS
www.nodeltatunnels.com

Opposition to the tunnels in the Delta region has reached a fever pitch.

Joaquin Palomino/File photo

only one $134 million in increased agricultural revenues a year from the plan, according to BDCP documents, leaving a glaring $660 million financial shortfall.

"The tunnels don't generate a water supply that's nearly as valuable as the costs," explained the University of the Pacific's Michael, one of the leading economic forecasters in the state. "I don't see how anyone who actually has the interest of the ag industry in California at heart can be supporting that project. ... It will strangle farmers with debt."

Michael has strong opinions about the economic pitfalls of the tunnels. Paying for them, he said, could make the cost of irrigation water "crazy," "nonsensical," and "absurd." He estimates that water prices in parts of the San Joaquin Valley could increase five-fold — to roughly $1,000 per acre-foot — if the plan moves forward. During some years that number could climb as high as $2,000 an acre-foot — a rate that would make the farming of most crops financially impossible.

Why, then, does Westlands continue to back a plan — albeit tentatively — that could put its farmers out of business? While district officials did not respond to repeated requests for comment, Westlands representatives have said that the region's tenuous water supply is unsustainable and that something needs to change. "We cannot live in a world that has 40-, 60-, 90-percent reductions in water supply on a regular basis," Jason Peltier, Westlands' chief deputy general manager, said in an interview last year.

Yet while it's true that the BDCP could make water cutbacks less severe, many economists and environmentalists are troubled by what might happen if the plan doesn't pan out financially. Under the BDCP, bonds would likely be floated to pay for the construction of the tunnels. But if Westlands or other water districts were to later default on the debt payments, it's not exactly clear what would happen. The state and the water districts have not yet hammered out the legal terms of who would be liable to pay back the bonds. Some legislators fear it could turn out to be state taxpayers.

"If costs significantly increase, as I believe they will, water contractors and ratepayers may not be able to carry the financial burden," warned Contra Costa County Assemblymember Jim Frazier at an Assembly oversight hearing earlier this year. "This puts us, the taxpayers, at risk."

Furthermore, Westlands has a history of not paying its bills. For example, as of 2008 (the latest year for which data is available), Westlands still owed about 80 percent of its $350 million debt on the federally run Central Valley Project, which broke ground three quarters of a century ago.

Some observers of the process, meanwhile, speculate that San Joaquin Valley farmers might not end up using the water on crops at all, but instead would sell it at higher prices to urban users and oil companies. As odd as that might seem, arcane state laws and recent legislation allow farmers to purchase subsidized water intended for agriculture and put it on the open market for sizable profits. Such revenues, in turn, could then help pay the bond debt from the construction of the tunnels.

Over the years, one of the biggest beneficiaries of farm-to-city water sales has been San Joaquin Valley farming magnate Stewart Resnick. One of California's largest growers, Resnick has made a fortune, not by tending his 115,000 acres of almonds, pistachios, and pomegranates in Kern County, but by selling taxpayer-subsidized water to the highest bidders. "I don't like to go to the *Chinatown* conspiracies," said Jon Rosenfield, a conservation biologist with the Bay Institute and a critic of the BDCP, referring to the classic 1974 film about California's water wars. "But the only thing that makes sense at this point is if [farmers] turn around and sell their water to urban users at a higher price."

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan is often compared to public works projects from past eras, when engineers built first and asked questions later. "It's a 20th-century planning process in a 21st-century world," said Rod Smith, a water economist for the consulting firm Stratecon Inc. For example, not only is the financing of the project still in doubt, but federal biologists warn that because the tunnels would divert so much freshwater from the Delta, the habitat restoration plan might actually do little to benefit certain

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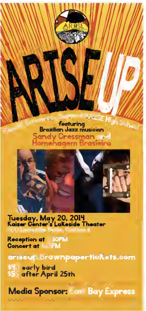
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The tunnels plan could destroy Tim Neuharth's pear orchards in the Delta.

Joaquin Palomino

endangered and threatened fish species, resulting in continued water cutbacks in years to come.

And while the benefits of BDCP remain murky, the costs to the Delta — both physical and economic — are crystal clear. If the plan moves forward, the region would turn into a construction zone for at least a decade. Thousands of dump trucks would transport tons of tunnel muck in and out of the area daily, clogging the two-lane levee roads. The quiet Delta nights would be interrupted by round-the-clock pounding of pile drivers. Dozens of homes and businesses would be relocated, and tens of thousands of acres of Delta's farmland would be sacrificed.

Opposition in the Delta, not surprisingly, is reaching a fever pitch. Signs demanding that the state "Stop the Tunnels" and "Save Our Delta" blanket roads and highways, protestors rally at Department of Water Resources meetings, and some residents want to put the project on a referendum ballot (the tunnels plan, though, was crafted so that it would be very difficult to place it on a ballot).

> "PEOPLE ASK, 'WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR WATER GOES ELSEWHERE?' AND THE ANSWER IS, 'WE'RE OUT OF BUSINESS.' THE AREA WILL GO UP IN SMOKE, TURN INTO SOMETHING VASTLY DIFFERENT, AND IT WILL NEVER COME BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS."

One of the biggest fears is that the plan could ruin the Delta's culture and way of life. "All you need to do is take a canoe down one of the sloughs, and just take your time and watch and experience it," said Tim Neuharth, a pear farmer whose family has tilled the north Delta's soil since the gold rush. "You'll see how beautiful it is here."

Neuharth works 260 acres of pears, stone fruit, and wheat on Sutter Island, one of sixty small islands in the Delta. The mineral-rich soil (the byproduct of eons of decaying swamp vegetation), abundant water, hot days, and cool nights make the area perfect for growing pears, and a few of Neuharth's trees have been alive for more than a century. Most of Neuharth's neighbors also operate on a fairly small scale, practice ecologically friendly farming practices, and have lived and worked in the region for generations. "People have put a lot of blood, sweat, and tears into farming and maintaining this place," he said, "so it's a little hard to let go."

But if BDCP moves forward, Neuharth might be forced to let go. To construct the tunnels the state would have to remove water from the land surrounding its forty-mile path, causing groundwater to sink ten to twenty feet in some areas. If water tables drop, people could lose their supply for years. Since the tunnels would weaken flows on the Sacramento River, seawater from the Pacific could also creep into the estuary. In a worst-case scenario, the freshwater channels could become so saline that they would contaminate water tables and kill crops, including Neuharth's pear orchards. "People ask, 'What happens if your water goes elsewhere?' And the answer is, 'We're out of business,'" he said. "The area will all go up into smoke, turn into something vastly different, and it will never come back to the way it was."

Although BDCP's proponents often accuse the plan's critics of resorting to hyperbole and say the financial questions will be addressed after an operating permit is secured, it's hard to overlook the fact that the project could choke taxpayers with debt while simultaneously damaging the Delta region. "It's a back-of-the-envelope diagram blown up to full size," said Rosenfield of the Bay Institute, referring to the fact that the plan, although sweeping, does not appear to have been well thought out. "It doesn't make sense economically. It doesn't make sense legally. It contradicts the state's policies. It's hugely expensive. And it's incredibly uncertain. I can't see how this plan as currently drafted goes forward because it doesn't provide anyone with what they want." ●

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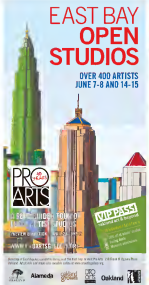
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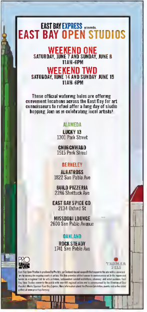
Image: Debra Jan Bibel, *Dunes*, 2013. Acrylic and ink on canvas. East Bay Open Studios Artist 148. Courtesy of the Artist.



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# EAST BAY OPEN STUDIOS

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11AM-6PM

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East Bay Open Studios is produced by Pro Arts, an Oakland-based nonprofit that supports the arts [illegible] art by serving the ongoing needs of artists. Pro Arts provides critical access to contemporary art in the region and serves as a regional hub for arts activities, independent curated exhibitions, advocacy and artist services. East Bay Open Studios connects the public with over 400 regional artists and is accompanied by the *Directory of East Bay Arts*. Media Sponsor: East Bay Express. More information about the Preview Exhibition, events and online artist gallery at www.proartsgallery.org

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# EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

## Finding Their Destiny

**Upon Destiny Arts Center's 25th anniversary, the leaders of the performing arts organization reflect on its past and look ahead to a future with greater community engagement.**

Cody Johnston Lewis

Kate Hobbs, Sarah Crowell, and Anthony Daniels with students from Destiny Arts Center

In the late 1980s, as an epidemic of drugs and violence swept through Oakland, martial artists Kate Hobbs and Anthony Daniels decided to start an afterschool program that would teach young people how to use martial arts philosophy to navigate conflicts in their neighborhoods. Twenty-five years later, the project that began in the basement of Longfellow Elementary School (now the site of the Oakland Military Institute) has grown into a thriving nonprofit performing arts organization: Destiny Arts Center.

While the organization has evolved since its founding to incorporate dance into its curriculum and focus more on the performing arts, its mission has remained the same. "Kate and Anthony started the center because they wanted to create an environment, a community, and a skill set that would help young people feel safe," said artistic director Sarah Crowell. "We've really held strongly to that vision."

The organization's signature program is the Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company. Every year, about twenty teens learn techniques from professional artists and help choreograph original pieces, while building confidence at the same time. "We've honed our philosophy around the power of the performing arts to be a violence prevention tool by providing young people with the ability to articulate their own authentic voice," Crowell said.

To celebrate its 25th anniversary, the center will host a benefit on Saturday, May 17 in its new North Oakland building (970 Grace Ave., entrance at 967 Stanford Ave.). During the gala, filmmaker and educator Dr. Shakti Butler and activist Lateefah Simon will speak about the center's impact on the community, and the youth performance company and martial arts students will demonstrate some of their work. Following the dinner, guests can dance to tunes spun by DJ Sake 1 and watch performances by all-female collective Mix'd Ingrdnts and street dance theater company the Embodiment Project, some of whose members are also instructors at Destiny Arts Center.

In addition to celebrating past achievements, organizers also hope to broaden their community outreach. The center currently teaches its Warriors Code, a set of ethics focused on self-respect, honor, and courage, and a curriculum called Five Fingers of Violence Prevention, through an afterschool arts program that's offered in more than 26 elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the East Bay. This year, the organization received a grant to expand its work with vulnerable youth in Alameda juvenile justice facilities.

Hobbs, who recently returned to the center as a martial arts instructor, feels inspired by the organization's accomplishments and its commitment to teaching a philosophy of non-violence, which she sees as being just as relevant today as when she first co-founded the center. "At the time we began, there was a hotness in the streets that isn't there now," she said. "But there's still a lot of violence and inequity that kids have to cope with."

5:30-6:30 p.m., $500 (VIP reception); 6:30-9 p.m., $150 (gala); 9 p.m.-midnight, $25-$50 (Destiny Soul After Party). DestinyArts.org

*—Zaineb Mohammed*

# ATTRACTIONS

**Friday Nights at OMCA** Night out with live music, [illegible] lectures, and food demonstrations. Fridays, 5-9 p.m., $7.50. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

**Godzilla [illegible] Forces Day** [illegible] Godzilla-themed activities, including [illegible]. Sat., May 17, [illegible]; Sun., May 18, [illegible]. [illegible] 10000 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. [illegible]

**[illegible]: Led Zeppelin** Classic laser light show set to music by Led Zeppelin. Fridays, Saturdays, [illegible] p.m. Continues through July 31, $14. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

**[illegible]: Pink Floyd** Classic laser light show set to Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon*. Fridays, Saturdays, [illegible] p.m.; Sundays, 4:35 p.m. Continues through July 31, $14. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

**[illegible]: The Beatles** Classic laser light show set to music by the Beatles. Sundays, [illegible] p.m.; Saturdays, 4 [illegible] p.m. Continues through July 31, $14. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

**[illegible]: U2** Classic laser light show set to music by U2. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through July 31, $12.

**[illegible] Car Show** [illegible] Sat., May 17, [illegible] p.m., $15. [illegible]

# FAIRS, FESTIVALS, & FIESTAS

**21st Annual [illegible] Fair** Celebration of Indian, Nepalese, Pakistani, and [illegible] culture with live music, food, arts and crafts, and a family activity area. Sat., May 17, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sun., May 18, 10 a.m.-[illegible] p.m. Free. Live Oak Park, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. [illegible]

**5th Annual Berkeley [illegible]** Festival with [illegible] games, [illegible] art activities, carnival games, [illegible], and food and drinks. Sun., May 18, 12-5 p.m., $[illegible] for adults, $3 for children 12 and under. [illegible] International [illegible] Valley, 1581 LeRoy Avenue, Berkeley. [illegible]

**[illegible] Music [illegible] by the Wind** [illegible] instruments that are played by the wind, and [illegible] instruments built by local artists and [illegible] elementary school students. [illegible] Sat., May 17, 12-3 p.m. Free. Middle Harbor Shoreline Park, 2777 Middle Harbor Rd., Oakland. [illegible]

**[illegible]** [illegible] Meditation [illegible] Sun., May 25, 12-5 p.m. Alameda South Shore Center, [illegible] South Shore Center West, Alameda. [illegible] AlamedaSouthShoreCenter.com.

**AYPAL's May Arts Festival** [illegible] performances by AYPAL youth including [illegible] lion dance, Filipino Tinikling, Korean drumming, spoken word, guerilla theater, and hip-hop. Thu., May 15, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Donations accepted. [illegible] 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]

**[illegible] Festival** [illegible] Sat., May 17, [illegible] p.m. Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, 2465 34th Ave., Oakland. 510-532-9142, PeraltaHacienda.org.

**[illegible] Festival** with [illegible], [illegible] plant tours, a [illegible], and historical tours and more. Sat., May 17, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. [illegible] El Cerrito Recycling Center, 7501 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito. 510-215-4350.

**[illegible] Arts Festival** [illegible] a main stage and a dance stage, [illegible] crafts vendors, a kid's court, and food and drinks. Sat., May 17, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. San Antonio Park, 1701 E. 19th St., Oakland. [illegible]

**Soup Family [illegible] Fair** Vendors throughout the East Bay selling art, crafts, [illegible] and more. Sat., May 17, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. [illegible] 1300 Grand St., Alameda. [illegible] TheHouseOfTruth.org.

# HEALTH, WELLNESS, & SEXUALITY

**[illegible]** [illegible] a Meditation [illegible] First and third Friday of every month, 12:30-1:30 p.m., $20-$30. [illegible] Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

**As Aging America: Challenges and Opportunities** Conference with [illegible] on topics related to aging, [illegible], technology, and [illegible]. Thu., May 15, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., $75. [illegible] 1230 [illegible] Dr., Berkeley. 510-843-2733. [illegible]

**East Bay [illegible] Group** [illegible] at 510-[illegible] or email [illegible] for more information. First and third Sunday of every month, 3-5 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. [illegible] OaklandLibrary.org.

**Introduction to Mindfulness** Learn the basic technique of paying attention to the breath, a simple practice that reduces anxiety and stress, in English and Spanish. Third Saturday of every month, 12-2 p.m. Oakland Public Library, [illegible] Branch, 3301 E. 12th St., Oakland. 510-535-5620, OaklandLibrary.org.

**[illegible]** [illegible] the history and philosophy of [illegible] and its contemporary applications. [illegible] days, [illegible] p.m. Continues through June 26, $85. Acupuncture and Integrative Medicine College, 2550 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-666-8248, AIMC.edu.

**[illegible]** The author [illegible] from her books [illegible] and *The [illegible]*. Sun., May 18, 6-8 p.m. [illegible] Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]-2383. GoodVibes.com.

**[illegible] Meditation Lecture** on the human mind and how to change it. [illegible] Saturdays, [illegible] p.m. Continues through Jan. 3. Free. [illegible] Meditation Berkeley, 1312 9th St., Berkeley. 510-526-5021, [illegible]

**Meditation Group** [illegible] session, with a short reading followed by thirty minutes of silent meditation. Tuesdays, 10:15-11 a.m. Free. [illegible]

2020 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. [illegible]

**Parkinson's Disease and the Art of Moving** Around balance, coordination, stretching, loosening joints, breathing, walking, turning, and recovering from a fall. Mondays, 10:30 a.m.-noon; Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon, $120/month. Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, Berkeley Branch, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237, JCCEastBay.org.

**Peer Counseling** With confidential drop-in counseling with a [illegible] therapy approach. Mondays-Fridays, 6:30 p.m. Free. 510-548-2570. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2570, BerkeleyFreeClinic.org.

**Widows/Widowers Grief Recovery Share and Support** Group [illegible] for sharing experiences of loss and grief. Sundays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Continues through June 8. First Presbyterian Church, 2407 Dana St., Berkeley. 510-848-6242, FPCBerkeley.org.

**Yoga and Movement for Parkinson's Disease** Focus on stretching, strengthening, and [illegible]. Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon, $120/month. Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, Berkeley Branch, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237, JCCEastBay.org.

# KIDS

**7th Annual Kids Triathlon** Swim, bike, and run event for kids. Sat., May 17, 8 a.m.-noon, $35. King Pool, 1700 Hopkins St., Berkeley. 510-644-6118, CI.Berkeley.CA.Us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=5472.

**Albany Bike Rodeo** The Albany Police Activities League (APAL) will show kids and [illegible] how to bike safely and responsibly. Sat., May 17, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. [illegible] Elementary School, 870 Talbot Ave., Albany. 510-558-3100. [illegible]

**Angela [illegible]** The local [illegible] author [illegible] reads from her books. Sat., May 17, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100, BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

**Art Workshop with MOCHA** Artists lead the Museum of Children's Art presents art workshops with [illegible] themes each week. Wednesdays, 2 p.m. Oakland Public Library, Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134, OaklandLibrary.org.

**Art Workshop with MOCHA** Artists lead the Museum of Children's Art presents art workshops with [illegible] themes each week. Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, 81st Ave. Branch, 1021 81st Ave., Oakland. 510-615-5812, OaklandLibrary.org.

**Fiber for Kids** Students can learn folk art [illegible] and [illegible] from across the globe. Saturdays, 2-4 p.m. Continues through May 24, $164-$185. [illegible] Art Center, 2540 Barrett Ave., [illegible] 510-620-6772. [illegible]

**[illegible]** Play games on the Xbox, [illegible] Wii, and PS3. Kids and teens ages 8-18 welcome. Wednesday, 3-5 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, 81st Ave. Branch, 1021 81st Ave., Oakland. 510-615-5812, OaklandLibrary.org.

**Kids [illegible]** [illegible] Panel discussion featuring [illegible] and [illegible]. Thu., May 15, 6:30-8 p.m., $5. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222, MrsDalloways.com.

**Meet Clifford the Big Red Dog** Special storytime event with Clifford the Big Red Dog. Sat., May 17, 3 p.m. [illegible] Barnes & Noble, 5604 Bay St., Emeryville. 510-547-0905, BarnesAndNoble.com.

**[illegible]** The children's author [illegible] her work. Free. Sun., May 18, 11 a.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210, GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

**[illegible] Train [illegible]** Model train open house. Sat., May 17, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., May 18, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., $2. [illegible] Creek [illegible] Branch, 2121 [illegible] Ave., Walnut Creek. 925-937-1888, WCMRS.org.

**Oh, and [illegible] You'll Go! Storytime** Dr. Seuss-themed children's storytelling event. Sat., May 17, 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 6002 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito. 510-524-9067, BarnesAndNoble.com.

**Oh, and [illegible] You'll Go! Storytime** Dr. Seuss-themed children's storytelling event. Sat., May 17, 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 5604 Bay St., Emeryville. 510-547-0905, BarnesAndNoble.com.

**[illegible] Elementary School Spring Festival** With [illegible] games, a climbing wall, a petting zoo, [illegible], free candy, and more. Sat., May 17, 12-4 p.m. Free. [illegible] Elementary School, 480 42nd Street, Oakland.

**Peralta Hacienda: Saturday Kids Club** A hands-on [illegible] on history and arts and crafts, organic gardening and cooking, and [illegible]. Saturdays, 2:30-5 p.m. Continues through May 31, free. [illegible] Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, 2465 34th Ave., Oakland. 510-532-9142, PeraltaHacienda.org.

**Saturday Storytime!** For kids ages four and up. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Free. [illegible] & Noble, 5604 Bay St., Emeryville. 510-547-0905, BarnesAndNoble.com.

**Saving Earth As One Workshop** where kids can learn how to help the planet and see the [illegible] community. Thu., May 15, 4 p.m. Oakland Public Library, Asian Branch, 388 9th St., Ste. 190, Oakland. 510-238-3400, OaklandLibrary.org.

**[illegible]** [illegible] author, artist, and musician, will perform stories with puppets and instruments from Asia and the Pacific Islands. Tue., May 20, 4 p.m. Oakland Public Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, 6833 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-615-5728; Tue., May 20, 7 p.m. Oakland Public Library, [illegible] Branch, 3565 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. 510-482-7844; Wed., May 21, 10:30 a.m. Oakland Public Library, West Oakland Branch, 1801 Adeline St., Oakland. 510-238-7352, OaklandLibrary.org.

**St. [illegible] School Carnival** With games, eco-friendly activities, food, and arts and crafts. Sun., May 18, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. St. [illegible] Catholic School, 7201 San Carlos Ave., El Cerrito. 510-525-8484, [illegible]

**Tyke [illegible] Green Thumb Program [illegible]** and learn about the parts of plants and [illegible] to discover what plants need in order to grow. Tue., May 20, 10 a.m.; 1 & 3 p.m.; Tue., May 27, 10 a.m., 1 & 3 p.m., $10-$12. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

**[illegible]** Includes a mini zoo tour, [illegible] games, [illegible] with an [illegible] and a [illegible] each month and a different [illegible]. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.-noon, $20. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525, OaklandZoo.org.

# PETS

**Community Veterinary Clinic** Alameda VIP [illegible] offers comprehensive services for dogs and cats: affordable vaccine packages, pet microchipping, standard blood and fecal testing, [illegible] and tick control, deworming, and heartworm [illegible]. Saturdays, 9:30-11 a.m. Pet Food Express, Alameda, 2541 Blanding Ave., Alameda.

Oakland
Art Murmur Galleries

# SATURDAY STROLL

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1-5pm

## UPTOWN GALLERIES

**Chandra Cerrito Contemporary**
480 23rd Street

**Classic Cars West**
411 26th Street

**Creative Growth**
355 24th Street

**Farley's East**
33 Grand Avenue

**FM Gallery**
483 25th Street

**Johansson Projects**
2300 Telegraph Avenue

**Krowswork**
480 23rd Street

**Mama Gallery**
473 25th Street

**Mercury 20**
475 25th Street

**The New Parkway Theater**
474 24th Street

**Oakopolis / The Moon**
447 25th Street

**PHOTO**
473 25th Street

**Bounce Ceramic Gallery**
473 25th Street

**SLATE contemporary**
473 25th Street

**Vessel Gallery**
471 25th Street

**The Wall Gallery**
473 25th Street

**Warehouse 416**
416 26th Street

## DOWNTOWN LAKE MERRITT GALLERIES

**Backstock Gallery**
3231 Grand Avenue

**Betti Ono**
1427 Broadway Avenue

**Creative Framing and Gallery**
2300 Park Boulevard

**Field Day And Friends**
325 16th Street

**Joyce Gordon Gallery**
406 14th Street

**Marion and Rose's Workshop**
461 9th Street

**Pro Arts**
150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

**SoloSpace**
1714 Telegraph Avenue

**Uptown Art Park**
Telegraph at 19th Street

## NORTH/WEST GALLERIES

**Aggregate Space Gallery**
801 W Grand Avenue
entrance on West

**Interface Gallery**
486 49th Street

**Royal Nonesuch Gallery**
4231 Telegraph Avenue

**Transmission Gallery**
770 West Grand Avenue

## JACK LONDON GALLERIES

**Blackball Universe**
230 Madison Street

**Lookal**
369 2nd Street

## JINGLETOWN GALLERIES

**FLOAT**
1091 Calcot Pl #116

**Grey Loft Gallery**
2889 Ford Street, 3rd Floor

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3RD SATURDAY WALKING TOUR MAY

**SAT 5 17 | THEME.** INTRODUCTION TO WEST OAKLAND'S GALLERIES

Led by: Cameron Erien of Transmission Gallery
Meet: Transmission Gallery 770 West Grand Ave 2pm | District: West

2–4PM | FREE

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# PICKS

RAD League
Lou Gomez at Our RabbitsAre Over Productions

## Recreational Adult Dodgeball League Season Opener

Last June, three friends who missed playing dodgeball decided to start their own league, but they were unsure how many other people would be interested. One year, three seasons, and one hundred participants later, it's safe to say there's no shortage of enthusiasm for the Recreational Adult Dodgeball League. The league, which includes a diverse range of participants, begins its fourth season this Thursday at the Claremont Middle School (5750 College Ave., Oakland). Over the course of nine weeks, eight teams of twelve will face off against each other in fifty-minute matches, culminating in playoffs in July. For those who are looking for less of a commitment, the league also hosts open recess gym nights on Mondays as well. And if memories of painful dodgeball games from your youth are holding you back, don't let them — the league uses small, no-sting balls. Spectators are welcome, although space is limited. — *Zainab Mohammed*

*Thursday, May 15, 7-9:15 p.m., $55 for league participation. Open recess gym: Mondays, 7-9 p.m., $5. RADLeague.com*

## Hillside Festival

With its eighty acres of forest, grassland, and creeks, there's a lot to love about El Cerrito's Hillside Nature Area, and this Saturday the park will get a dedicated celebration in the form of the first Hillside Festival. Meet near El Cerrito's Recycling Center (7501 Schmidt Ln.) and participate in guided hikes led by the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers, a nature walk along the King Court Trailhead, and a workshop on how to garden with native plants, or try the pop-up bike park, constructed by the El Cerrito High School Mountain Bike Team. Berkeley historian Richard Schwartz will be on hand to discuss early California Native American life, and El Cerrito Historical Society president Rich Bartke will talk about the history of El Cerrito's parks. Organizers also hope to raise awareness and funds for the Madera Open Space Campaign, which aims to help the city purchase an eight-acre piece of land in order to reunite the northern and southern portions of the Hillside Nature Area. — *Z.M.*

*Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Donations accepted. ElCerritoTrailTrekkers.wordpress.com*

510-884-2322. PetFoodExpress.com.
**Community Veterinary Clinic — Berkeley** VIP PetCare offers comprehensive vaccines for dogs and cats, affordable vaccine packages, pet microchipping, standard blood and fecal testing, prescription flea and tick control, deworming, and heartworm prevention at every walk-in community clinic. Sat., 4-5:30 p.m. Pet Food Express, Berkeley, 1801 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-7777. PetFoodExpress.com.
**Community Veterinary Clinic — El Cerrito** VIP PetCare offers comprehensive vaccines for dogs and cats, affordable vaccine packages, pet microchipping, standard blood and fecal testing, prescription flea and tick control, deworming, and heartworm prevention at every walk-in community clinic. Sundays, 1-2:30 p.m. Pet Food Express, El Cerrito, 11430 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-231-9999. PetFoodExpress.com.
**Community Veterinary Clinic — Oakland (Montclair)** VIP PetCare offers comprehensive vaccines for dogs and cats, affordable vaccine packages, pet microchipping, standard blood and fecal testing, prescription flea and tick control, deworming, and heartworm prevention at every walk-in community clinic. Sundays, 10-11:30 a.m. Pet Food Express, Montclair, 2220 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. 510-530-0900. PetFoodExpress.com.
**Community Veterinary Clinic — Oakland (Piedmont)** VIP PetCare offers comprehensive vaccines for dogs and cats, affordable vaccine packages, pet microchipping, standard blood and fecal testing, prescription flea and tick control, deworming, and heartworm prevention at every walk-in community clinic. Sundays, 4-5:30 p.m. Pet Food Express, Piedmont, 3889 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland. 510-597-1234. PetFoodExpress.com.
**Community Veterinary Clinic — Rockridge** VIP PetCare offers comprehensive vaccines for dogs and cats, affordable vaccine packages, pet microchipping, standard blood and fecal testing, prescription flea and tick control, deworming, and heartworm prevention at every walk-in community clinic. Sundays, 1-2:30 p.m. Pet Food Express, Rockridge, 5144 Broadway, Oakland. 510-654-8888. PetFoodExpress.com.
**Feral Cat Foundation Adoptions — North Oakland** With featured cats available for adoption. Saturdays, 12-5:30 p.m. FeralCatFoundation.org. Pet Food Express, Grand Lake, 5509 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. PetFoodExpress.com.
**Hopalong & Furry Friends Animal Rescue Dog Adoptions** With dogs available for adoption. Third Saturday of every month, 12-3 p.m. Pet Food Express, Rockridge, 5144 Broadway, Oakland. 510-654-8888. PetFoodExpress.com.
**The Milo Foundation Cat & Dog Adoptions** With dogs and cats available for adoption from The Milo Foundation. Saturdays, 12-4 p.m. Pet Food Express, Rockridge, 5144 Broadway, Oakland. 510-654-8888. PetFoodExpress.com.
**The Pet Ambassadors Club** Pet education event, where kids can learn how to be safe with animals, reading animal emotions, and making pet-themed crafts to take home. Sat., May 17, 1-2 p.m., free. Alameda Sea Spot Barn, 2320 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda. 510-523-7788. AlamedaSeaSpotPet.com.
**Pet Loss Support Group** A drop-in group for those preparing for or already grieving the loss of a pet. Third Tuesday of every month, 7-8:30 p.m., donations accepted. Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society, 2700 Ninth St., Berkeley. 510-845-7735. BerkeleyHumane.org.

## RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

**30th Anniversary Celebration** With games, activities, performances, and vedic worship conducted by Swami Swaroopananda. Sat., May 17, 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sun., May 18, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Mon., May 19, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., free. Shiva-Vishnu Temple, 15902 Maubert Ave., San Leandro. 510-278-2444. [illegible].
**Angel Light Metaphysical Fair** With tarot, angel, handwriting, crystal, and psychic readings. Sun., May 18, 1-6 p.m., $20. Angel Light Books, 3142 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-665-1500. AngelLightBooks.com.
**Ariel Zoneberg Talk** By the author and renowned Torah scholar. Sun., May 18, 1 p.m. Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, Berkeley Branch, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237. JCCEastBay.org.
**A Cup of Tea with Spirit** With tea, treats, and chants at thermal spirits and ancestors. To RSVP: [illegible]. Takes [illegible]. Third Sunday of every month, 4-5 p.m., $5-$10. Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden, 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].
**A Father's Loss** Reverend Frank Schaefer, a United Methodist elder, shares his perspectives on the church's struggle to become truly welcoming. Mon., May 19, 6:30-8 p.m., free. Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-8216. PSR.edu.
**Introduction to Contemplative Psychology** Class teaching the fundamentals of Nalanda Training, an extended training program in Contemplative Psychology. Sat., May 17, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun., May 18, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., $150. Shambhala Center, 2288 Fulton St., Berkeley.
**Judaism for the Beginner** A class exploring topics that make up Jewish life and practice. Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. Continues through June 17. Chochmat HaLev, 2215 Prince St., Berkeley. 510-704-9687. ChochmatHaLev.org.
**[illegible]** [illegible] meditation, satsang, Sanskrit [illegible] chanting, and studying of the Vedic scriptures. $100 for daylong intensive meditation on Friday. May 16. Fri., May 16, 1-9 p.m., Sat., May 17, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. & 6:30-8 p.m., Sun., May 18, 8 a.m.-noon, free. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. [illegible].
**Relationship Between Culture and Religion** Lecture by Dr. Seyyed Hossein Nasr, professor of Islamic Studies at George Washington University. Sat., May 17, 6-8 p.m., $10. Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California, 1433 Madison St., Oakland. 510-548-0641. [illegible].
**Touching Life** Unlocking Your Lens Creatively

Enjoy Greek hospitality in the Oakland Hills May 16, 17 & 18, 2014
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OaklandGreekFestival.com

[illegible] Zen Awareness meditation practice. Sun., May 18, [illegible] p.m., $40. Yoga Kula, 3018A 16th St., San Francisco, 415-834-0000, yogakula.com.

## SALES, SWAPS, PROMOTIONS, & FUNDRAISERS

**Alameda West End Flea Market** With collectibles, custom jewelry, beauty accessories, upscale home decor, and vintage and antique items. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., free, 510-990-3431, WestEndFleaMarket.com. College of Alameda, 555 Atlantic Ave., Alameda, 510-522-7221, Alameda.Peralta.edu.

**Ecogeneity Yard Sale and Earth Fair** Sale of used items and crafts. Sat., May 17, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., $15 for residents, $18 for non-residents. [illegible] Recreation Center, 2720 Eighth St., Berkeley.

**Destiny Arts Center Benefit Gala** Celebration of the arts nonprofit organization's 25th anniversary with performances by the youth performance company and presentations by speakers Dr. Shakti Butler and Lateefah Simon. After party with DJ Sake 1 and dance performances. Sat., May 17, 5:30 p.m., $500 for VIP Alameda, $150 for gala, $25-$50 for after party. Destiny Arts Center, 970 Grace Ave., Oakland, 510-597-5619, DestinyArts.org.

**Forbidden Island's Annual Plant Swap** All plants welcome. Sun., May 18, 3-5 p.m., free. Forbidden Island, 1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-749-0332, ForbiddenIslandAlameda.com.

**Friends of the Albany Library Book Sale** Selling fiction, nonfiction, children's books, magazines, and audio-visual materials. Sat., May 17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., free; May 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany, 510-526-3720, AClibrary.org.

**Give and Take: A Monthly Swap** Swap out your kids' gently-used clothing, books, and toys for others. Third Saturday of every month, $5. 10 a.m.-noon. Oakland Public Library Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland, 510-238-7344, OaklandLibrary.org.

**[illegible] Lady Button** Bi-monthly clothing swap for women of all body types. Sun., May 18, 6-8 p.m., $10. Oakland Vintage, 1005 2nd Ave., Oakland, [illegible], [illegible].net.

**The Vintage Foots** Pop-up shop with vintage clothing, jewelry and accessories as well as music and food. Saturdays, 12-7 p.m. Vintage, 321 19th St., Oakland.

More Listings Online

Find hundreds of up-to-date events listings at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

## SOCIAL EVENTS

**21st Annual Sunset Night Out** with dining and live entertainment. Fri., May 16, 6:30-10:30 p.m., $15. Richmond Memorial Auditorium, 403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, 510-620-6804.

**Burning LOVE: 25 years of Big Words & Big Art on the Playa** [illegible], creator of translations on the playa, [illegible] her experiences at Burning Man. Fri., May 16, 7-9:30 p.m., free. [illegible] Cafe, [illegible] 4th St., Oakland, [illegible].org.

**Burton Spring 2014 Kick-Off Party** With [illegible], dollar giveaways, and a DJ set from Aaron [illegible]. Sun., May 18, 3-6 p.m., free. Burton Snowboards, 1840 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-540-1100, Burton.com.

**[illegible]** Quiz [illegible] Weekly group pub quiz with prizes. Mondays, 7:30 p.m., free. Cato's Ale House, 3891 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-3349, CatosAleHouse.com.

**FABULOUS [illegible] Music** Networking event with drinks, live entertainment, and jewelry. Fri., May 16, 6-11 p.m., $45. The [illegible] Fine Art Gallery and [illegible] Bar, 1714 Franklin Street, Oakland, [illegible].com.

**LATE NITE ART Benefit** Evening of collaborative art-making, ambient music, food, and discussion. Focusing on the [illegible] Oakland [illegible] celebrating spring. Sat., May 17, 7:30-11 p.m., $48. Impact Hub Oakland, 2323 Broadway, Oakland, 510-858-2323, [illegible] ImpactHub.net.

**Mah Jongg with Toby Salk** Learn to play Mah Jongg in this class with [illegible] Toby Salk. Thu., May 15, 6-8 p.m.; Thu., May 22, 6-8 p.m. $150. [illegible], 3042 Claremont Ave., Berkeley, 510-655-1557, [illegible].com.

**[illegible] Mother's Garden Party** With tasting menu featuring Oakland [illegible], cocktails made by mixologists from St. George Spirits, and live music by the [illegible]. Sun., May 18, 3-6 p.m., $60. Ploughshares Nursery, 2701 Main St., Alameda, 510-755-1307, PloughsharesNursery.com.

**Tuesday Night Trivia** Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., free. The Fireside Lounge, 1453 Webster St., Alameda, 510-864-1244, TheFiresideLounge.com.

## SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

**Albany Run Around Foots** Two routes (one short, one long). Meet at Gazette Crepe Cafe at 8 a.m. for the fast one of the routes. [illegible] Crepe [illegible] will provide free coffee to runners. Sundays, 8-9:30 a.m., free.

**Arroyo Viejo Creek Care Day** Help [illegible] up the [illegible]. Sat., May 17, 9 a.m.-noon. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland, 510-632-9525, OaklandZoo.org.

**Bicycle Bingo** Play Bicycle bingo and raise money for the San Pablo Avenue Golden Gate Improvement Association. Third Thursday of every month. 7-9 p.m. Actual Cafe, 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, [illegible], [illegible].com.

**Bike Mechanics Workshop** Learn the basics of bicycle maintenance including how to fix a flat, adjust brakes and gears, and how to keep your bike clean. Sat., May 17, 2 p.m. Oakland Public Library 81st Ave. Branch, 1021 81st Ave., Oakland, [illegible], OaklandLibrary.org.

**Bike Tour** OMCA Oakland local bike tours. Destinations include downtown Oakland, the port area, Lake Merritt, and Fruitvale. Starting May 18. Third Sunday of every month. [illegible], free. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland, 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

**[illegible] Weekend Weed Alameda** Volunteers can help [illegible] non-native plants [illegible]. Sun., May 18, 1-4 p.m., free. Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, 4901 Breakwater Ave., Hayward, 510-670-7270.

**Dragon Boat** [illegible] Join the [illegible] Dragon Flyers for free, introductory dragon boating sessions. Equipment provided. Meet at [illegible] Square Dr., Alameda. Saturdays, 8:45-10:30 a.m., free, [illegible], AlamedaDragonFlyers.com.

**Endless Cycles Lake Chabot Night Ride** Weekly off-road [illegible] bike rides [illegible]. Bicycle lights required. [illegible] Contact [illegible] EndlessCyclesOnline.com or [illegible] for more information. Tuesdays, 6:15 p.m., free. Lake Chabot Regional Park, 17600 Lake Chabot Rd., Castro Valley, 888-327-2757, EBParks.org/Parks/Lake_Chabot.

**Fight Night** Play old school fighting video games like *Soul Calibur* and *Street Fighter*. [illegible] Tuesdays, 4 p.m., $2. The Museum of Art and Digital Entertainment, 610 16th St., Oakland, TheMADE.org.

**[illegible] Riding Skills Clinic** Clinic going over the basics of bike riding. Sun., May 18, 9 a.m., free. [illegible], [illegible] Park St., Alameda, [illegible], [illegible].com.

**High School Age Dragonboating** Oakland bay dragon boat coaching. Wednesdays, 4:30-8 p.m.; Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through May 31, free. [illegible], [illegible] Embarcadero, Oakland, [illegible].

**Hooping** Hoopdancing for people of all ages. Sundays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., free. LoveHooping.com. Jack London Square Farmer's Market, Oakland and Embarcadero, Oakland.

**[illegible]** Beginning [illegible] class. Mon., May 19, 6:15-8:15 p.m., $20. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 510-865-5060, Rhythmix.org.

**March to End Poverty** Ninth annual march to raise awareness [illegible] of the people who live in poverty within Alameda County. Sat., May 17, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Lake Merritt [illegible], 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland.

**Oakland Through [illegible]** A weekly yoga class accompanied by live music by local musicians and [illegible] "residences" with Oakland musicians. Mondays, 6:30-8 p.m., $5-$15. [illegible] Social Club, [illegible] Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland.

**[illegible] Walking Tour** Tour the city's landmarks, churches, and high-rises. Itinerary descriptions, dates, and starting locations are available at OaklandNet.com/walkingtours. Wednesdays, Saturdays, 10-11:30 a.m., free.

**The People's Community Yoga** Drop-ins welcome. All levels encouraged to attend. Wednesdays, 7 p.m., $10. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

**Pickleball** [illegible] fast-paced [illegible] combining elements of tennis, ping pong, and volleyball. For all ages and experience levels. Played on the tennis courts. Tuesdays, 4 p.m., $3-$5. $2 paddle rental. [illegible], AlbanyCa.org. Ocean View Park, 900 Buchanan St., Albany.

**[illegible] League Open Dodgeball Gym Night** Open [illegible] play. Mondays, 7 p.m., $8. Claremont Middle School, 5750 College Ave., Oakland, [illegible].

**Richmond "Ride of Silence"** Ride to [illegible] those who have been seriously hurt or killed while bicycling in Richmond. Wed., May 21, 6 p.m. Richmond City Hall, [illegible] Barrett Ave., Richmond, [illegible], [illegible].

**Urban Agriculture and Affordable Housing Bike Tour** Tour lead by David [illegible] Architects. Sat., May 17, 12-3 p.m. West Oakland BART, 1451 7th St., Oakland.

**[illegible] Bike Ride** A weekly [illegible] bike ride. Saturdays, 9:45 a.m., free. Warehouse 416, 416 26th St., Oakland, [illegible], Warehouse416.com.

**Wellness Wednesdays with [illegible] East Bay** Introduction to the [illegible] Fitness Program. Wed., May 21, 6-7 p.m.; Wed., May 28, 6-7 p.m., free. Jack London Square, 98 Broadway, Oakland.

## SPORTS-SPECTATOR

**[illegible] Annual [illegible] Invitational Relay Track Meet** Showcase of athletic talent of academically [illegible] and college-bound high school students within the inner city of Northern California. Fridays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Continues through May 30, $7 general admission, $3 for students. Edwards Stadium, Bancroft Way at Fulton St., Berkeley, [illegible], CalBears.com/[illegible].

**Alameda Police vs. Alameda Fire** Fundraiser [illegible] game featuring the Alameda Police Department vs. the Alameda Fire Department, benefitting Alameda Family Services. Fri., May 16, 6:30 p.m., $10-$15, free for children under 5. Alameda High School Gym, 2200 Central Ave., Alameda, [illegible].

**Baseball vs. Arizona** [illegible] Fri., May 16, 4 p.m. Evans Diamond, Oxford St. at [illegible] Way, Berkeley, [illegible], CalBears.com.

**Golden Gate Fields: Dollar Dogs** With dollar hot dogs and other [illegible] delights. Sundays, $1. Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy., Berkeley, 510-559-7300, GoldenGateFields.com.

**[illegible] League Season Opener** Season opener for the Recreational Adult Dodgeball League. Thu., May 15, 7 p.m. Claremont Middle School, 5750 College Ave., Oakland, [illegible]. ■

*Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.*

The Local Economy Issue

This new special issue will focus on the importance of small businesses to our region and the pivotal role they play in creating growth, innovation, and opportunity in our local economy. We'll have stories that focus on small retailers, relationships between local businesses and governments, triple bottom line issues, and a host of other concerns facing area entrepreneurs, business owners, local workers, and sustainability enthusiasts

Deadline:
June 6, 2014

Publish Date:
June 11, 2014

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# MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

## ART GALLERIES

**1947 Center Street Lobby Gallery.** *Fresh Fog: a New Intelligence:* Exhibition of works on paper by Jamie Tracey. Through May 18. 1947 Center St., Berkeley. 510-981-7283.

**Aggregate Space.** *Fact and Fancy:* [illegible] featuring Sara Rumberger and Danielle Schlunegger. Opening reception on Friday, May 16 from 6-8 p.m. May 16-June 21. 801 West Grand Ave., Oakland. AggregateSpace.com.

**La Cosecha Café.** [illegible] Marley, Joan Di Stefano and Robin Scanor: Exhibition of paintings by the three artists. Through May 30. 2900 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-0435. [illegible]

**[illegible] Gallery.** *Sky Around:* paired exhibition on the theme of sky. Through May 23. 1301 Oak Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1417. [illegible]Gallery.org.

**Berkeley Central Arts Passage.** *Home:* Group exhibition featuring paintings, prints, installations, and more. Opening reception on Wednesday, May 21 from 6-8 p.m. May 21-Aug. 30. 2055 Center St., Berkeley.

**Berkeley Public Library – Central Branch.** *Motion Pictures:* Berkeley photographer David Jones and his [illegible] pigment prints from his Bay Area dance series. Through July 9. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

**Books Inc. Berkeley.** *Sally Sherwood:* Exhibition of the artist's multimedia work. Through May 31. 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7777. BooksInc.net/berkeley.

**[illegible]** [illegible] photographer Meg Allen, examining the beauty of the [illegible] Through May 30. [illegible] University, Oakland. 510-[illegible].

**Oakland, [illegible] Contemporary.** [illegible] Solo exhibition by [illegible]. Through May 28. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-290-7484. [illegible]

[illegible].com.

**City Limits Gallery.** [illegible]: paintings by Brooklyn-based artists Sheryl Oppenheim and [illegible]. Through May 31. Free. [illegible] Jefferson St., Oakland. 917-297-8687. CityLimitsGallery.com.

**Clear Channel Outdoor.** *Gesture and Structure:* Featuring [illegible] and oil paintings by Johana Fox. Through July 23. 535 12th St., Oakland.

**The Compound Gallery & Studios.** *Synonym:* A Group Exhibition of new work by [illegible]. Through June 15. 1167 65th St., Oakland. 510-601-1702. TheCompoundGallery.com.

**[illegible] Gallery.** *Lyric Color:* Exhibition of original works by Heather Plaza, owner of the gallery. Through June 30. 3015 Woodminster Lane, Oakland. 510-482-1200. [illegible].com.

**Creative Growth Art Center.** *At the Table:* Exhibition featuring work by more than 50 artists offering a new perspective on the annual *Home* show. Through June 27. 355 24th St., Oakland. 510-836-2340. CreativeGrowth.org.

**Doug Adams Gallery.** [illegible] of Paul [illegible]'s works [illegible] art and [illegible]. Through May 23. 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-8926. Gtu.edu/Doug_Adams_Gallery.php.

**Expressions Gallery.** *Spring Forward:* Spring-themed group exhibition featuring digital art, photography, drawing, paintings, and sculpture. Through July 11. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930. ExpressionsGallery.org.

**FLAX: [illegible] Center and Art Gallery.** *Oil and Earth:* Exhibition of works by Roy Terrell and [illegible] exploring environmental science through diverse mediums. Through June 7. 5001 [illegible] Pl., Oakland. 510-536-1700. [illegible].com.

**JM.** *Perfectly Imperfect:* Exhibition of works by Lauren Ari. Opening reception on Thursday, May 15 from 6-8 p.m. Through May 31. 480 25th St., Oakland. [illegible]Oakland.com.

**Frank Bette Center.** *Alameda on Canvas,* 2014 Annual, juried event illustrated throughout the City of Alameda. Through May 25. 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

**Full Court Press: [illegible]. Lisa Kokin and Alex MacLeitch.** Featuring mixed media artwork by Lisa Kokin and [illegible] sculptures by Alex MacLeitch. Through July 25. 410 15th St., Oakland. 510-271-[illegible]. FCPCommunications.com.

**Garage Gallery.** *Short Order:* Small sculptures by Phil Linhares. Through June 1. 3110 Wheeler St., Berkeley. 510-841-4719. BerkeleyOutlet.com/pages/garagegallery.html.

**Gray Loft Gallery.** *Flora and Fauna:* Group show exploring nature in a variety of media. Through May 17. 2889 Ford St., Oakland. 510-495-5445. GrayLoftGallery.Blogspot.com.

**Hudson Studio Frame-Makers.** *A California Spring Exhibition:* A Northern Exhibition: paintings by fourteen of the region's plein air painters. Through May 31. Free. [illegible] Doyle St., Emeryville. 510-450-0350. HudsonFrames.com.

**The International Peace & Art Center.** *Pangea:* Exhibit featuring a Mosaic of 30 portraits by artist Seren Moore. Through May 27. 395 29th St., Oakland. 510-251-6712. InternationalPeaceArtCenter.com.

**[illegible] Gallery.** *Spring 2014 Student Art Exhibition:* Showcasing student works by [illegible] at Berkeley City College. Through Aug. 22. Free. 2050 Center St., Berkeley. 510-981-2800. [illegible].

**Johansson Projects.** *Outdoor Works* by [illegible] Drawing, a collaboration with [illegible]. Through June 14. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

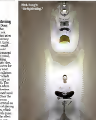
**Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter.** *Art of Steel:* Exhibit of large-format photographs shot at twilight by Tom Paiva featuring the fabrication of the bridge pieces in Shanghai, China. Truly. *The Bridge Builders:* Photography exhibit highlighting the engineers, ironworkers, and welders behind the new East Span. Through May 31. 101 8th St., Oakland. 510-817-5700. MTC.Ca.gov.

**[illegible].** *A Unified Theory of Painting*

# PICKS

### Be-longing-En-lightening

As a child, artist Nick Dong would roll his eyes at his father when he would ask him to perform Buddhist rites meant to further his journey toward enlightenment. Later, he thought, what if he could make an object that could bring someone enlightenment instantly? With that in mind, Dong began hand-making 10,000 mirror porcelain tiles, writing a Buddhist mantra for each. These eventually went into his immersive installation titled "En-lightening," which is now on view at Mercury 20 (475 25th St., Oakland). The viewer steps through a white door into a dark, windowless room. Inside, a cushioned stool is dimly illuminated. Once the viewer sits down, the room gradually brightens to reveal an interior made entirely of shining white tiles and mirrors, which begin reverberating with quasi-spiritual humming. The effect is a surreal yet calming, not unlike what one might imagine achieving enlightenment would feel like. Along with "En-lightening," Dong is also showing "Be-longing," a lit-up, reflective staircase surrounded by mirrors. It's meant to create an interactive, spatial metaphor for the feeling of longing for intimacy. Both exquisitely executed installations are mind-bending, sublime, and enchanting. — *Sarah Burke*



Nick Dong's "En-lightening."

*Runs through May 17. 510-701-4620 or MercuryTwenty.com*

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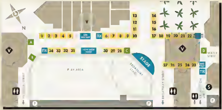
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## MUSIC

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Fists of Flour — C
Lungomare — D

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Kid's bike rodeo

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BAY AREA BIKES
EAST BAY EXPRESS
BIKE EAST BAY

Exhibition of work by Josh Wright. Through June 7. 480 23rd St., Oakland, 510-219-7391, Newswork.com.

**Latham Square Building.** *Sublime Broadcast:* Broadcast of site-specific installations. Through Sept. 26. 1611 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-836-8760. ProArtsGallery.org.

**LeQuiVive Gallery.** *stored Forest Noise:* Exhibition of work by Scott Flanagan and Cannon Dill. Through June 20. 1525 Webster St., Oakland. 510-419-1780. LeQuiVive.com.

**[illegible].** *Regeneration/Degeneration:* Exhibition of paintings by Scott Greenwalt and 3D-print film sculpture by [illegible]. Through June 2. **Loakal Walking Tour:** Free guided walking tour of [illegible] Oakland Art Murmur's gallery [illegible]. Third Saturday of every month. 3-4 p.m. free. 560 2nd St., Oakland.

**Manna Gallery.** *Official Junction:* [illegible] of new work by [illegible]. Through June 14. 473 25th St., Oakland, 510-763-2336. MannaGallery.com.

**Marion & Rose's Workshop.** *Lines and Circles:* Studies [illegible] work by Lisa Congdon. Through June 15. free. 461 9th St., Oakland, 510-214-8794, MarionandRoses.com.

**Martin Luther King Jr. [illegible] Student Art Exhibition:** Juried showcase of work by 2[illegible] Oakland-based artists. Through Feb. 27, 2015. free. 2180 [illegible] St., Berkeley.

**Mercury 20 Gallery.** *Portfolio:* Showcase of encaustic paintings and [illegible] on paper by Oakland-based [illegible]. Through May 17. *[illegible]:* Exhibit of [illegible] by Nick Dong. Through May 31. 475 25th St., Oakland, 510-694-7766. MercuryTwenty.com.

**[illegible] Gallery.** *Winged Migration:* Exhibit of recent paintings by local artist and [illegible]. Through July 13. [illegible], Oakland, 510-339-4266.

**[illegible] Gallery.** [illegible] Exhibition of work by [illegible] Shaw. Through June 1. 326 15th St., Oakland.

**[illegible] Photography Studio.** *First Light, Last Light:* Exhibit of photographs by Lisa Toby. Through May 31. free. 388 Colusa Ave., Kensington. 510-528-8845, [illegible].

**NIAD Art Center.** *Hanging By A Thread: The Work Of Lisa Solomon:* [illegible] work by the Oakland artist. Through June 27. *City in Motion:* [illegible]. Through June 21. *The Wild Bunch:* Showcase of work from Linda Gannon, Angela Rogers, Deidre Colbert, and Phyllis Carr. Through June 27. *Ebony + Ivory:* Black and white [illegible] group exhibition. Through June 27. 551 23rd St., Richmond, 510-620-0290, NIADart.org.

**Oak Exhibition:** *[illegible]:* Solo show of photography by San Francisco-based artist [illegible]. Opening sculpture on Saturday, May 17th from 6-9 p.m. May 17-June 16. 3233 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-395-6020. [illegible].

**A [illegible].** *Walking the Bay Trail: A Photo Journal:* With photos by photojournalist [illegible] of his [illegible] walk around 300-plus miles of the San Francisco Bay Trail in thirty days. Through May 31. 5:30-7 p.m. 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland.

**Oakland Art Murmur/Piedmont Avenue Art Walk:** With art, entertainment, and refreshments. Participating storefronts showcase art works of storefronts. Third Thursday of every month. All [illegible] free. PiedmontAvenue.org. Splash Pad Park, between Grand and Lakeshore avenues, Oakland. OaklandArt.org.

**[illegible] Creativity Center.** *Joyce Atkins & Gay Long:* Exhibit of [illegible] by the two artists. Through May 18. 447 23rd St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]. [illegible].org.

**[illegible] Press.** *Life in The Shadow:* Drawings by [illegible] Showcase of Oakland [illegible]. Through June 5. free. [illegible] Fourth St., Oakland, 510-593-2048. [illegible].com.

**[illegible].** *A Street in [illegible]: Images of [illegible]* by Yul Boyles. Through May 11. *Oakland and [illegible]:* Exhibit of images of the city of Oakland by [illegible] Jeffrey [illegible], Lee Nathan, [illegible], and [illegible]. Through May 17. 473 25th St., Oakland, 510-407-4446. [illegible].

**Pro Arts Gallery.** *[illegible] Vanessa Marsh:* Exhibition of work [illegible] in collaboration with [illegible] Housing [illegible] (SAHA) The Savoy. Through May 23. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, 510-763-4361.

ProArtsGallery.org.

**Oakland, Parts, Gardens, Oakland and Oakland Come:** Showcase of photographs by Kathe Strauss. Opening reception on Saturday, May 17 from 12-6 p.m. May 17-June 6. free. *Door to Door:* Commemoration of an on-site, large-scale photograph installation being [illegible] by street artists Chip Thomas and [illegible] Flaherty. Sat., May 17, 12-6 p.m. free. 1206 13th Ave., Oakland. [illegible].

**[illegible] Center Bay Area.** *In the [illegible]:* Film Work Solo Exhibition of work by Bay Area artist Clifford Rainey. Through July 13. [illegible] St., Emeryville, 510-[illegible].

**Rhythmix Cultural Works.** *Unexpected Landscapes:* Exhibit of photographs by [illegible] and paintings by Greg Roman. Through July 3. free. 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-865-5060. Rhythmix.org.

**Richmond Art Center.** *Art of the Community Program:* Exhibition showcasing the work being [illegible] in the Art Center's [illegible] Art in the Community Program. Through May 30. *Victor Cartagena:* [illegible] installations by the San Francisco-based artist pulling from his [illegible] 1980. Through May 30. *The Breakfast Group: Two and [illegible]:* Group Showcase of 36 noted artists of the Breakfast Group who have been meeting weekly since the 1960s. Through May 30. **[illegible] with the Sketch- and Group Artists:** [illegible] art, world, events, movies, film, and sports. Saturdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. [illegible] Through May 24. 2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond, 510-620-6772, TheRichmondArtCenter.org.

**[illegible] Ceramic Gallery.** [illegible] New ceramic work by the artist. Through May 31. 473 25th St., Oakland.

**Royal Nonesuch Gallery.** *Wrapped Up in the Cloud:* Solo Exhibition of work by [illegible]. Through May 28. 4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 415-680-3641, RoyalNonesuchGallery.com.

**[illegible].** *Etchings of the Oakland [illegible]:* [illegible] of etchings of Aphrodite, Isis, [illegible] Persona and [illegible] Queens of the Nile. Through May 31. [illegible] Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9811.

**San Pablo Art Gallery.** *The Creative Side:* Showcase of mixed-media [illegible] and paintings [illegible] by various city of San Pablo employees. Through May 16. 13831 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].

**SLATE contemporary.** *New Directions in Photography:* Featuring photography by [illegible], Carol [illegible], and Counterpoint Studio. Through June 28. 473 25th St., Oakland, 510-395-0449. SlateArtandDesign.com.

**[illegible].** [illegible] Exhibition of work by [illegible]. Through May 24. 3234 Grand Ave., Oakland, www.studiogrand[illegible].

**[illegible] Gallery.** *Transformed Landscape:* Exhibit of photography by Joshua [illegible], Lannie [illegible], and Noah Wilson. Through May 31. **[illegible] Tour:** [illegible] Visit [illegible] Gallery and meet the gallery curators. Sat., May 17, 2-4 p.m. free. [illegible] the gallery's artists and view the current exhibits. *Transformed Landscape.* Wed., May 21, 6-8 p.m. $10 general admission, free for members. 770 West Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible].

**[illegible] Contemporary.** *[illegible]:* Showcase of [illegible] paintings and works on paper by Los Angeles artist Samantha Fields. Through May 24. 893 Colusa Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-1214, [illegible].com.

**Uptown Body & Fender.** *[illegible]:* [illegible] documentary [illegible]. Through May 17. 401 26th St., Oakland. 510-251-8080.

**Urban Legend Cellars.** [illegible] Exhibition of photography by the artist, [illegible] presented by Gray Loft Gallery. Through May 29. 621 4th St., Oakland. 510-545-4350. ULCellars.com.

**[illegible] Gallery.** *Wave = Light and Shadow:* [illegible]. Through May 24. 473 25th St., Oakland.

**[illegible] 416.** [illegible] Group Exhibition [illegible] work by Oakland artists. Through May 24. 416 26th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible], [illegible].com.

## MUSEUMS

**BAM/PFA.** *[illegible]:* Special gallery [illegible] of exploding [illegible] work. Part of [illegible]. Through Dec. 21. *MATRIX 253:* [illegible] works of the artist's work exploding [illegible] Special photography, images, sculpture, and video. Through June 29. *Envisioning Human Rights: The Next Generation:* [illegible] photographs, and prints by emerging artists/activists from around the state, addressing critical human rights issues. Through Sept. 14. *The Elephant's Eye: Art of Animals in South & Southeast Asia:* Exhibition featuring thirty [illegible] from India, Thailand, and Cambodia [illegible]. Through June 29. **[illegible] University of California, Berkeley [illegible] Fine Arts Graduate Exhibition:** Showcase of work by MFA graduates [illegible], and [illegible]. Artists reception on Sunday, May 18 at 3 p.m. May 16-June 8. *The Oakland Workshop:* [illegible] closing ceremony on May 25. Sun. May 18, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. $10 general admission. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

**[illegible] Lecture Hall: [illegible] Documentary Screening:** This [illegible] follows MFA artist Sarah [illegible] in her [illegible] journey [illegible]. May 15, 7 p.m., May 16, 7 p.m., Sat., May 17, 2 p.m. Mills College, Oakland, 510-430-[illegible]. Mills.edu.

**Mills College Art Museum.** [illegible] Exhibition [illegible] work [illegible]. Through May 25. [illegible]. Through May 25. **[illegible]:** [illegible]. Wed., May 21, 5-7 p.m. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-430-2164. MCAM.Mills.edu.

**Oakland Museum of California.** *Judy Chicago: A Butterfly for Oakland:* Showcase of [illegible] documenting *A Butterfly for Oakland,* Judy Chicago's 1974 site-specific [illegible] on the shore of Lake Merritt. Through Nov. 30. *[illegible] Study of Fog in San Francisco:* [illegible]. Through June 29. *[illegible] Art and [illegible]:* Exhibition featuring the works of fifteen contemporary artists [illegible] with the magazine *Giant Robot,* a celebration of Asian and Asian American pop [illegible]. Through July 27. *[illegible]:* [illegible] exhibit exploring the street and cultural phenomenon of [illegible]. Through July 27. *Inspiration Point: Masterpieces of California Landscape:* Showcase of California landscapes [illegible]. Through July 13. *The Greatest [illegible]:* [illegible]. Through July 6. *Bay Motion: Capturing San Francisco Bay on Film:* [illegible] of the Prelinger [illegible] how the San Francisco Bay and the surrounding region have been [illegible] on film by [illegible], professionals, and [illegible] people. Through June 29. **Talk and Play [illegible]:** [illegible]. Sat., May 17, 1-2:30 p.m. $6-$15, and [illegible] free [illegible] for members. 1000 Oak St., Oakland, 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

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# THEATER & DANCE

## COMEDY

**Chucklehead Culpepper Night** A weekly comedy show hosted by Bonnie and Marv. Fridays, 8 p.m., $10. MLK Cafe, 3000 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Oakland. 510-658-0600.

**Comedy Affairs Showcase** Featuring the [illegible] up-and-coming Bay Area stand-up comedians. First and third Sunday of every month, 8:30 p.m., free. Ivy Room, 860 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-526-5888, IvyRoom.com.

**Berkeley Open Mic** Sign-ups at 8 p.m. Each comic gets 3-5 minutes, with up to a $100 cash prize for winner. First and third Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m., $5. Tommy T's Comedy Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800, TommyTs.com.

**Eddie Griffin** Stand-up comedy performance with Eddie Griffin and [illegible]. Sun., May 18, 7 p.m. $35-$100. [illegible] Theater, [illegible] East 14th St., San Leandro. 510-458-1224.

**Layover Comedy** Mike Spiegelman hosts [illegible] Bay Area [illegible] Tuesdays, 8:30-11 p.m., free. The Layover, 1517 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-834-1517, OaklandLayover.com.

**Banana Comedy Jam** With sketches, improv, stand-up comedy, and music. Fridays, 8 p.m. Continues through June 27. $10. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

**Marsh Jam** Great theater by Bay Area comedians and musicians. Fridays, 8 p.m., $10. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

**[illegible]** [illegible] Mondays, 7:30 p.m., free. The Night Light, 311 Broadway, Oakland. 510-433-0540, TheNightLight-Oakland.com.

**Open Sun Comedy** A weekly open mic for both veteran and up-and-coming comedians. Sundays, 8 p.m. [illegible] Continental Club, 1658 12th St., Oakland. [illegible]

**Open Sun Comedy Night** Weekly comedy night. Mondays, 8:30 p.m., free. Ivy Room, 860 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-526-5888, IvyRoom.com.

**[illegible] Comedy** Open-mic comedy night hosted by DJ [illegible]. Thursdays, 8:30-11 p.m., free. Stork Club, 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-6174, StorkClubOakland.com.

**[illegible]** Performance by the [illegible]. Fri., May 16, 8 p.m. $20 regular admission, $30 VIP. First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley.

**[illegible] Comedy Show** Featuring comedian [illegible] and guests. Third Friday of every month, 8 p.m. Spice Monkey Cafe, 1628 Webster St., Oakland. 510-268-0170, SpiceMonkeyOakland.com.

**You're Funny, But You Don't Look Jewish** Comedy performances by Joseph Nguyen, [illegible], Elon Gold, and Mike Capozzola. [illegible] Sat., May 17, 8 p.m., $15, $12 for members. [illegible] 2255 [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-704-0287, [illegible].org.

## DANCE-PERFORMANCE

**[illegible] African Diaspora Dance Festival** Showcases [illegible] on the culture and history of descendants of Africa throughout the US, America, Latin America, [illegible] and Asia. Through May 17. Laney College, 900 Fallon St., Oakland. 510-834-5740, 510-464-3210, Laney.peralta.edu.

**NOMAD: The Blue Road** [illegible] and collaborating artists perform site-specific dance honoring our relationship to rivers. Sat., May 17, 11 a.m., Sun., May 18, 11 a.m. Info: Strawberry Creek, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-883-6542, [illegible].

**Oakland Dance Company Spring Season** Performance [illegible] program featuring four world premieres celebrating the East Bay community. Fri., May 16, 8 p.m., Sat., May 17, 8 p.m. $20-$35. Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, 1428 Alice St., Oakland. [illegible]

**Pacific Pathways: A Celebration of Dance** Featuring performances from the Pacific Rim, including America, [illegible], India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and the Pacific. Theater. Sat., May 17, 7-9 p.m. $20-$50. [illegible] Center, 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-637-0455, OACC.cc.

**Smuin Ballet "XXcentric"** [illegible] Fri., May 16, 8 p.m., Sat., May 17, 2 p.m. $54-$75. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. [illegible] LesherArtsCenter.org.

**Dance and Blues** Dance performance by Terrain, an East Bay dance and performance [illegible]. Sat., May 17, 8 p.m., Sun., May 18, 3 p.m., $15-$18. Eighth Street Studio, [illegible] Eighth St., Berkeley. [illegible]

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more theater events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

## LIVE VARIETY

**Art Over Bazaar** A monthly showcase of music, spoken word, and a little pop-up [illegible]. Third Sunday of every month, 3-7 p.m., free. ArtBeatFoundation.org. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082, TheStarryPlough.com.

**[illegible] Classic Burlesque Show** Featuring [illegible] acrobatics, contortionists, and other burlesque acts. Fri., May 16, 9 p.m., $10-$20. The Uptown, 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-8100, UptownNightclub.com.

**The Iron Heel** Dramatic musical production of Jack London's *The Iron Heel* by the Iron Heel Theater Collective. Sun., May 18, 1-4 p.m., $10-$20. [illegible] Theater, 1422 Harrison St., [illegible] 510-235-3444.

**[illegible]** [illegible] Vegas John, Candy Pink, Street Kiss, Mickey Free, Piano Man, [illegible], and more, followed by [illegible]. Third and first Wednesday of every month, 8 p.m., $5. White Horse Inn, 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. [illegible], WhiteHorseBar.com.

**[illegible] Cabaret & [illegible] Party** Featuring burlesque performances, [illegible] and magic, [illegible], spoken word, and more. Fri., May 16, 8 p.m., Sat., May 17, 8 p.m. $10. Bench and Bar, 510 17th St., Oakland. 510-444-2266, BenchandBar.com.

## THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

***The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*** Center Repertory Company's production of the play where six young people participating in their middle school spelling bee learn that winning isn't everything and that losing doesn't make you a loser. Comedy. May 16, Wednesdays-Sundays. Continues through June 21, $37-$48. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1400, LesherArtsCenter.org.

***Always...Patsy Cline*** Tribute to the legendary country singer based on a true story about Cline's enduring friendship with one of her biggest fans. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through June 15, $21-$34. Altarena Playhouse, 1409 High St., Alameda. 510-523-1553, Altarena.org.

***Amerasia*** Play about race and immigration, written and performed by Ariel Luckey. Thu., May 15, 8 p.m., Fri., May 16, 8 p.m., Sat., May 17, 8 p.m., Sun., May 18, 7 p.m., $18-$25. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

***The Crazed*** A new play by [illegible] based on the novel by Ha Jin, about a young scholar in China on the eve of the Tiananmen Square massacre. Production by [illegible] Workshop. Starting May 17. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sundays, 5 p.m. Continues through June 22. $15-$28. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. BerkeleyCityClub.com.

***Daylighting: the Berkeley Shorts Project*** A young woman who must set off [illegible] across Berkeley journeys through Berkeley's history and her own, encountering strangers and old friends who help her face her future. May 21-June 22. $6-$25. Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-6500, ShotgunPlayers.org.

***Geezer*** Comedian Geoff Hoyle's solo show. Thursdays, 8 p.m., Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through May 24. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

***The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures*** Tony Kushner's world play about the Marcantonio family [illegible] Gus Marcantonio's [illegible] brownstone. May 16-June 29, $45-$75. Roda Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. [illegible], BerkeleyRep.org.

***The Letters*** John W. Lowell's play set in the Soviet Union in 1931 about the [illegible] agenda of a Ministry director and the employee Anna who he draws into his office for a job-related [illegible]. Through June 1, $30. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822, AuroraTheatre.org.

***[illegible]*** Play exploring what it means to be hapa (of mixed Asian heritage) in America. Co-production with Ferocious Lotus Theatre Company. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 7 p.m. Continues through June 8. [illegible] Theatre, [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. [illegible]

***Knockout*** Mark Kenward's solo show about growing up in [illegible]. Featuring [illegible] video and fine art photography inspired by [illegible]. Through June 14. $15-$30. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

***[illegible]*** Solo show by [illegible] about growing up black in the 1970s in San Leandro. Continues through May 31, $15-$40. [illegible] Studio, [illegible] St., Berkeley. [illegible]

***[illegible]*** Tom Dudzick's play about a family growing together. Based in part on his own childhood growing up in a Polish-American community. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sun., May 18, 2 p.m. Continues through May 24, $12-$15. Live Oak Theater, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

***A Raisin in the Sun*** Patricia McGregor's production of Lorraine Hansberry's play about the Younger family in 1950s Chicago, and the unexpected check that puts everything they know into question. Check CalShakes.org for special event details. Starting May 21, Tuesdays-Sundays. Continues through June 15, $35-$81. Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda.

***[illegible] Academy*** Comedy of music, poetry, word, and theater celebrating the students at [illegible] Theater School. Tue., May 20, 7 p.m. $15-$20. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

***[illegible]*** Jonathan Moscone directs the play about [illegible] through May 18. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. [illegible]

***[illegible]*** Performance by [illegible] Little and Young Performers. Sat., May 17, 8 & 1 p.m. Sun., May 18, 2 p.m., $8. Rhythmik Cultural Works, [illegible] Ave., Alameda. [illegible], Rhythmik.org.

***Women In Solidarity: Digital Love*** An evening of short-form performances and monologues written and performed by women. Fri., May 16, 8 p.m., Sat., May 17, 8 p.m., Sun., May 18, 8 p.m., $15. The [illegible], Channing Way, Berkeley. ●

# PICKS

José Navarrete

Kim Ueno

## Oakland-esque

Over four decades, Oakland Ballet Company built its reputation on reviving famed works from the canon, including modernist masterpieces created by the Ballets Russes. Over the past few years, the company has refocused on the Bay Area's choreographic talent pool, and this weekend at Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts (1428 Alice St., Oakland) the spotlight is on Oakland itself. Described as a "portrait in dance" of the city, Oakland-esque comprises four new works by Sonya Delwaide, Melissa Pauley, Robert Moses and artistic director Graham Lustig. Joining the company will be guest performers from AXIS Dance Company as well as Rayshawn "Looney" Thompson and Garron "Nick Justice" Morgan from turf dance sensations Turf Feinz, and costumes and decor by local painter Sam Rennavanno. With music ranging from grassroots hip-hop and funk to a commissioned score by Kronos Quartet alumna Joan Jeanrenaud, it promises to be an eclectic, artistically vibrant show. How Oakland-esque. — *Claudia Bauer*

*Friday and Saturday, May 16-17, Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 2 & 8 p.m., $20-$35. 510-893-3132 or OaklandBallet.org*

## NOMAD: The Blue Road

Are the water wars inevitable? In hopes of staving off that bleak prospect, choreographer [illegible] of Dance Monks has joined the international movement to "daylight" urban creeks (i.e., to bring them above ground) and revere the natural sources of water beneath our feet. To that end, she's hosting a guided walk and site-specific performance at Strawberry Creek this weekend. *NOMAD: The Blue Road* will begin at the western end of the UC Berkeley campus (Center and Oxford sts., Berkeley) and meander to Strawberry Creek Park, with pauses for dance and music along the way. A notable roster of Bay Area artists will share the journey, including dancers Dohee Lee, José Navarrete, and Debby Kajiyama, violinists Jennifer Curtis and Pamela Sasaki, and environmental artist Lauren Elder, whose recent work has been dedicated to exploring water, ecology, and climate change. — *C.B.*

*Saturday and Sunday, May 17-18, 11 a.m., free. DanceMonks.com*

## XXcentric

Smuin Ballet will close its twentieth season with verve, presenting two new works that highlight its evolution into a contemporary company of note. Titled *XXcentric*, the show at Lesher Center for the Arts (1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek) is a little eccentric and a lot entertaining, and was well received at its San Francisco debut. Val Caniparoli's "Tutto Eccetto il Lavandino (everything but the kitchen sink)" is a choreographic free-for-all, right down to the metaphorical sink, while choreographer-in-residence Amy Seiwert's "But Now I Must Rest" channels the emotions of the late Cape Verdean singer Cesária Évora, whose rich voice conveyed joy and sadness with equal lushness. The show concludes with one act from Michael Smuin's *Dancin' with Gershwin*, a jukebox ballet set to the composer's greatest hits. — *C.B.*

*Friday and Saturday, May 16-17, Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 2 p.m., $54-$70. 925-943-7469 or SmuinBallet.org*

Claude DeSaux

Vincent Chavez, Rayshawn "Looney" Thompson, and Alysia Chang in Oakland-esque.

# LECTURES & LIT

## LECTURES

**Biological trap jaws: Versatile motor from Nature to Design** [illegible] Talk by Robert J. Full, Goldman Professor in the Department of Integrative Biology at UC Berkeley. Sat., May 17, 11 a.m.-noon, [illegible] Hall, UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley.

**Celebrating Elephants Reception** Event raising awareness and funds for the African elephants with speaker Dr. Vicki Fishlock, Research Associate at the Amboseli Trust for Elephants. Sat., May 17, 6-8 p.m., $40. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525, OaklandZoo.org.

**David [illegible]** Talk by the author and founder and director of Alternative Room. Mon., May 19, 6 p.m. [illegible], 1714 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

**Dragonflies: Their Lives, Loves, and How to Care for Them** Talk by dragonfly expert Kathy Biggs. Wed., May 21, 7-9 p.m. Oakland Public Library Dimond Branch, 3565 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. 510-482-7844. OaklandLibrary.org.

**Endangered Species Day** Kerry Kriger gives a presentation on endangered frog species of the world, and will discuss the California Red-Legged Frog and our efforts to protect it. Fri., May 16, 5-8 p.m., free. Gorgeous and Green, 2524 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. GorgeousandGreenEvents.com.

**Healthy [illegible]** [illegible] new building science products and practices to maximize safety and [illegible] in the home. Thu., May 15, 8:45 a.m.-2 p.m., $20-$30. [illegible] 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. [illegible]

**Inspired Words** Discusses his experience riding from the Bay Area to [illegible] and year. Sat., May 17, 1 p.m. [illegible] Public Library Main Station, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134. OaklandLibrary.org.

**My Protectors: Healthy Myths about Fats** Holistic Weight Loss Coach Tammy Chang and Nutrition [illegible] discuss how to [illegible] good and bad fats, the benefits of healthy fats and which fats are best for cooking. Sat., May 17, 4:30-6:30 p.m., $10. [illegible] Franklin St., Oakland. [illegible]

**A New Look at Israel** Author [illegible] Harris will present a [illegible] account of the [illegible] of the State of Israel. Sun., May 18, 10 a.m.-noon, free. Temple Israel, 3183 Mecartney Rd., Alameda. 510-522-9355, www.templeisraelalameda.org.

**A Peace Budget for a Peace Economy** Peace Action West's [illegible] will lead a discussion on [illegible] federal budget. Sat., May 17, 2-4 p.m. Oakland Public Library Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017. OaklandLibrary.org.

**Radicalizing Tools: The Proposition of Black Tools** Talk by Garrett [illegible], Bancroft Fellow at The Bancroft Library, on the [illegible] Library Board between 1862 and 1864. Thu., May 15, 12-1 p.m. [illegible] UC Berkeley, Berkeley. [illegible]

**Relationships Differently** [illegible] Rosenberg, the dean of the Nyingma [illegible], offers ways to build [illegible] through analysis and interpersonal exercises. Sun., May 18, 5-7 p.m., free. Tibetan Nyingma Institute, 1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley. 510-843-6812. Nyingma.org.

**Revolutionary [illegible] Between Greece & [illegible]** [illegible] around the globe to discuss [illegible] movements. This month will focus on the current state of [illegible] the antagonist movements in Greece. Sat., May 17, noon. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

**Sheila Heen** Harvard law lecturer speaks about her new book Thanks for the Feedback: The Science and Art of Receiving Feedback Well, written with co-author Douglas Stone. Thu., May 15, 6:30-7:30 p.m., free. [illegible] Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. [illegible]

**Sustainable Decision Panel** Panel discussion about innovations and scientific findings in livestock operations, including dairy, beef and [illegible], sponsored [illegible] environmental [illegible]. Thu., May 15, 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m., free. [illegible] 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. [illegible]

**[illegible] the Revolution** Talk on the viewpoint of the Revolutionary Communist Party, sponsored by Revolution Books Berkeley. Thu., May 15, 7 p.m., $10. [illegible] Way, PFA Theater, Berkeley. 510-642-1412, BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more literary events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

## LITERARY EVENTS

**Adelle Waldman** Reads from her novel The Love Affairs of Nathaniel P. Fri., May 16, 7 p.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlace.indiebound.com.

**[illegible]** Reads and signs her [illegible]. Wed., May 21, 7 p.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlace.indiebound.com.

**Art Heart Writers' Society** Writer [illegible] leads a weekly writing and performance workshop designed to generate new material and foster a sustainable community of Bay Area writers. Mondays, 7-9:30 p.m. [illegible] The 25th Street Collective, 477 25th St., Oakland. 510-384-3148. 25thStreetCollective.com.

**Bay Area Storytelling Festival** Oral storytelling festival with featured tellers [illegible]. Sat., May 17, 9:30 a.m.-7:15 p.m.; Sun., May 18, 9:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m., $25-$65. [illegible] Pavilion, 5458 Harbour Way [illegible], Richmond. [illegible]

**Bette's Writers Collective** Guided [illegible] with [illegible] exercises and [illegible]. Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. [illegible] Center, [illegible] Park St., Alameda. [illegible]

**Doug [illegible]** Reads from [illegible]. Sun., May 18, 3-5 p.m., $5-$10 suggested donation. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-841-4824. BFUU.org.

**Free Book Exchange** Give and get free books of all genres. Saturdays, Sundays, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., free. [illegible] Bay Area Free Book Exchange, [illegible] San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-705-1200. BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com.

**[illegible]** Discusses the book she co-authored with [illegible], Urban Farms, and [illegible] Worldwide. Tue., May 20, 7:30 p.m. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-548-0585. UniversityPressBooks.com.

**[illegible]** Reads from her novel, [illegible]. Wed., May 21, 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

**Lyrics and Rhyme Economy** A new [illegible] of emerging writers every month. Third Wednesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. [illegible] Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-1320. PegasusBookstore.com.

**[illegible]** Shares the first book from her [illegible]. Sat., May 17, 4 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7777. BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

**Marjorie Sayer** The author reads from her novel The Six Mechanics of Miracles. Thu., May 17, 10:30 a.m. [illegible] Library Asian Branch, 388 9th St., Ste. 190, Oakland. 510-238-3400. OaklandLibrary.org.

**[illegible]** Discusses his [illegible] in the [illegible] Environment. Mon., May 19, [illegible] p.m. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-548-0585. UniversityPressBooks.com.

**Peter Miller** The author [illegible] The [illegible]. Wed., May 21, 7 p.m. [illegible] 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. [illegible]

**Poetry Express Readings** A weekly poetry reading and open mic. Mondays, 7-9 p.m. Himalayan Flavors Restaurant, 1585 University Ave., Berkeley. [illegible]

**Poetry Tribute to Lowell A. Levant** Moderated by Lowell's brother Ron Levant. Featuring [illegible] from the posthumous volume A Poet Drives a Truck. Thu., May 15, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7777. BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

**Tal [illegible]** Reads from her [illegible]. Thu., May 15, 7 p.m. [illegible] College Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

**UC Berkeley Extension Student Readings** Students in UC Berkeley Extension's Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program in Writing share their works of poetry, nonfiction, and fiction. Sat., May 17, 4 p.m. [illegible] Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

**Willie [illegible] and David [illegible]** The poets read from their new books as part of the Poetry Flash Reading Series. Thu., May 15, 7:30 p.m. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087. MoesBooks.com.

**Writer Readings** Third [illegible] of every month, 8 p.m. [illegible] Cafe, 4210 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

**Writing Workshops for Survivors of Violence** Creative nonfiction writing workshop that centers the [illegible] of violence as the expert in the ways that [illegible] affects [illegible]. Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Continues through [illegible], $100. [illegible] Martial Arts Academy, 448-472 Santa Clara [illegible], Oakland. [illegible] KPMMA.com.

## PUBLIC INTEREST

**Homebuyer Education Workshop** The workshop will cover the home buying process, how to go about getting financing, [illegible] properties [illegible] and how to work with lenders and realtors. Wed., May 21, 6-8:30 p.m. [illegible] City Hall, 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland.

**Landlords and [illegible] Counseling** [illegible] Counselors from the Berkeley Rent Board offer one-on-one counseling sessions. Third Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-noon, free. Berkeley Public Library [illegible] Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

**Start & Run a Small Business** [illegible] author of [illegible] will host a workshop on how to start and run a profitable small business. Tue., May 20, 6-7:45 p.m. [illegible] Public Library, Temescal Branch, 5205 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5049. OaklandLibrary.org.

**Toastmasters International @ UC Berkeley** [illegible] of Berkeley [illegible] people of all [illegible] who are interested in [illegible] more confidently [illegible] speakers. Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m., free. [illegible] Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

**Toastmasters [illegible]** [illegible] Toastmasters International is a non-profit [illegible] organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a [illegible]. Tuesdays, 7 a.m., free. Warehouse 416, 416 26th St., Oakland. [illegible] Warehouse416.com.

# PICKS

## Adelle Waldman

Adelle Waldman.
Lisa Ross

If one of the great pleasures of a good book is being transported to a different time and place, it should be noted that *The Love Affairs of Nathaniel P.*, Adelle Waldman's simmering, sharp-eyed debut novel, does none of that. Rather, *Nathaniel P.*'s triumph is in its exquisite, sometimes cutting characterization of an archetype we all know well: the sensitive young literary man of post-millennial brownstone Brooklyn (which, to be clear, could easily be Oakland with a few cosmetic tweaks). Waldman's title character agonizes about everything and can commit to nothing; despite its title, the book is devoted not to a passionate love affair but to the sort of tentative romance that's ripe for a comedy of manners like this one. Waldman reads this weekend at A Great Good Place for Books (6120 La Salle Ave., Oakland). — *Ellen Cushing*

*Friday, May 16, 7 p.m., free. GreatGoodPlace.Indiebound.com*

## SPOKEN WORD

**The Berkeley Slam** With spoken word and an improvisational band or DJ. Hosted by Bobby Gomez, [illegible] Josh [illegible] and Natalya [illegible]. Cash prizes each week. Wednesdays, 8 p.m., $7. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082. TheStarryPlough.com.

**The Golden Word Poetry Slam and Open Mic** Hosted by three-time Grand Slam Champion [illegible]. All ages welcome. [illegible] Sunday of every month, 6:30-10 p.m., $5-$12. [illegible] Lake Coffee House, [illegible] Grand Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

**Good [illegible] and Speakeasy 3rd Thursdays** Open mic poetry [illegible] 10:30 p.m., [illegible] poetry, rap, food, [illegible] and more. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. [illegible] donations accepted. Eastside Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-533-6629. [illegible]

**Youth Open Mic** [illegible] and the Starry Plough offer regular youth open mics each month. [illegible] Sunday, 4-7 p.m. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082. TheStarryPlough.com. ■

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Chris Duffey

# ITALY, BY LAND AND SEA

Trabocco brings the coastal cuisine of Abruzzo to a shopping center in Alameda

By Luke Tsai

On an unseasonably warm April evening, Giuseppe Naccarelli is at our table talking about his grandmother's *baccalà* recipe — about how when he was a little boy in Abruzzo, his family so poor that every Christmas Eve, for the Feast of the Seven Fishes, six of the fishes were usually salt cod, served in as many different permutations as his frugal *nonna* could devise.

As far as I can tell, this is Naccarelli's routine. At Trabocco, the upscale Italian restaurant that the chef opened in an Alameda shopping center last November, he makes his rounds through the dining room, and out onto the covered outdoor patio, every half-hour or so, to greet guests with a hearty "*buona sera*" and a few moments of small talk. If you imagine a stereotypical gregarious Italian shopkeeper, Naccarelli is pretty much that.

The Alameda South Shore Center isn't the most picturesque setting, but luckily the restaurant's designers had the foresight to surround the patio with big planter boxes. Sitting on that patio, with your view of Old Navy obscured by all that lush greenery and with Naccarelli and his staff chattering away sometimes in Italian, it's possible to imagine you're sitting, if not in Italy, then at least at one of the fancier Italian restaurants in San Francisco or Napa Valley. The prices, too, are more in line with what you'd find in a big-city restaurant.

And the food better than what you'd expect to find in a shopping plaza, just steps away from Applebee's. Trabocco's menu focuses on dishes that are characteristic of Naccarelli's native Abruzzo region, in Central Italy. The most interesting items are appetizers, divided on the menu into *antipasto* and *stuzzichini*, which are small plates somewhat akin to Spanish tapas. We began one meal with the aforementioned *baccalà* dish, the one that Naccarelli declared his favorite among his grandmother's recipes. Presented in three little individual portion ramekins, the dish consisted of salt cod and roasted red peppers, each portion piled atop a cube of crispy-oozy fried polenta. The salt cod itself was a revelation — tender and flaky in a way that resembled fresh fish more than it did a preserved product, just salty enough, and imbued with a hint of smokiness from the wood fire.

On a different night, we started with an order of *polpo e patate* (grilled octopus and potato), another stunner of a first course: bite-size segments of tender, well-charred octopus (again, smoky from the wood-fire grill), thinly sliced onion and fennel, and baby potato rounds — all tossed in olive oil and lemon juice. Just bright, pure flavors — Italian simplicity at its finest.

Less successful was a dish described on the menu as "braised pork belly and vegetable ragu," which led us to expect some lush, slow-cooked, savory thing. Instead, this was dried-out slices of pork served over roasted red peppers coated in an overly-sweet-and-sour sauce.

We skipped the restaurant's rather extensive pasta section and opted instead to order a couple of Abruzzo-style pasta dishes. The *chitarrine* featured handmade pasta — infused with the slight earthy bitterness of cocoa powder and cut with a traditional *chitarra* (or stringed pasta "guitar") — and a rich, savory ragu with big chunks of rabbit meat. And while the texture of the braised oxtail ravioli's filling was a little too pasty, taken as a whole — with a drizzle of the tasty tomato-based braising sauce and slices of nutty melted pecorino cheese — the dish was quite delicious.

Naccarelli spent the previous nineteen years working his way up the ranks at the Il Fornaio restaurant chain, whose outlets are often located in shopping plazas just like the one in Alameda. Trabocco is a much more personal project — in everything from the chef's use of family recipes to the location (he lives in Alameda) to the name, which alludes to a kind of intricate fishing hut that you'll find at the end of small wooden piers all along the coast of Abruzzo. With its elaborate nets and wood beams, the typical *trabocco* looks something like a child's play fort, set up on stilts. The restaurant displays an art installation — a series of bejeweled nets overhead — that's meant to be a nod to these structures.

Trabocco's menu leans heavily on the fruits of the sea. Aside from the salt cod and the octopus, there's usually at least one whole fish option, roasted in the wood fire. The *brodetto alla vastese*, a seafood stew featured a delicious tomato-based fish broth that was infused with white wine and whole cloves of garlic cooked soft — it's meant to be lighter and less tomato-heavy than a cioppino, Naccarelli explained. The stew was loaded with seafood, though the quality was just okay — I wished the scallops had been sweeter, and the fish a little cleaner-tasting.

Better among the entrees, though somewhat exorbitantly priced at $32, was the rotisserie rabbit, one of several rotisserie options that change over the course of the week. Cooked whole on a spit, yet again in a wood fire, the rabbit came out into three big pieces — a foreleg, a hind leg, and a bacon-wrapped saddle, all fragrant with rosemary and more tender than you might expect. Served with sauteed spinach and mashed potatoes, the dish is tailor-made for the meat-and-potatoes crowd.

It should be noted that Trabocco is only marginally less expensive than the East Bay's priciest Italian restaurants — places like Oliveto and A16. Even if you skip wine and cocktails, it's easy for two diners to rack up a bill that approaches $100.

That's expensive enough to keep me from adding Trabocco to my regular rotation, although the packed house I encountered during each visit makes it clear that the restaurant has filled a niche: It's one of the fanciest restaurants in Alameda, and unlike many of the East Bay's higher-end Italian spots, the menu features very little in the way of Cal-Italian fusion. So, despite the inclusion of a few unusual regional specialties, Trabocco is, above all else, accessible. ●

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

**Trabocco**
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| Grilled Octopus and Potato | $13 |
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| *Chitarrine al Cacao* | $18 |
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WHAT THE FORK

# A NEW KIND OF TAKEOUT

Plus: Charlie Hallowell launches a philanthropic dinner series, and Taco Grill — now Obelisco — moves and expands

By Luke Tsai

Perhaps you have a hankering for a rice bowl from Hawker Fare or a margherita pizza from A16 Rockridge, but are too lazy or preoccupied to leave your house — to deal with parking, wait for a table, or any of the other hassles of a formal restaurant dining experience.

If so, Caviar, a delivery service for restaurants that don't normally deliver, might be the solution you've been waiting for. Founded by four UC Berkeley alums, the company launched in San Francisco two years ago, and has been slowly rolling out its service to other major cities. Caviar just launched service in the East Bay last week, with a preliminary lineup of fifteen restaurants that includes some of the most popular spots in Oakland and Berkeley: Hopscotch, Phil's Sliders, Plum Bar, Hawker Fare, and A16, among others.

Here's how it works: Diners place an order from the restaurant of their choice either "on demand" (for delivery within the hour) or up to a week in advance. Caviar then dispatches a driver and notifies the restaurant; delivery is guaranteed within the hour, and you can track the exact location of your food while it's in transit.

Customers pay a $9.99 flat fee for the service plus an automatic 18 percent gratuity, both of which go directly to the driver. Meanwhile, the company makes its money by taking a cut from the restaurant — usually between 20 to 25 percent of the sale, depending on the restaurant, co-founder Jason Wang explained.

Other notable features: Caviar's website features a photo of every single dish; there is no minimum (or maximum) order; and the delivery zone, which covers most of Oakland, Berkeley, and Emeryville, is notably large — there are restaurants on the list I'd never normally consider getting takeout from because they're just too far away.

Caviar recently took some heat from the tech-culture blog Valleywag, which criticized the company for not being up-front about the fact that it's really just offering a luxury service for people who are as lazy as they are wealthy — "Seamless for rich people," as the author put it, referring to the popular delivery service. But Wang said the idea that Caviar is mostly delivering food from expensive white-tablecloth restaurants is a misconception, pointing to the diversity of the restaurants represented. And it's true: Higher-end restaurants like Hopscotch and A16 are far outnumbered by places like Shan Dong, a Chinatown standby where nearly every dish costs less than $10.

According to Wang, quality is important to Caviar — the company only plans on partnering with what its founders consider to be "top" restaurants. But in most cases, that translates to low- to mid-range neighborhood spots that are extremely popular.

Wang said Caviar plans to add at least one new restaurant a week — the next two on the list are Ike's Lair and Homeroom. As an opening promotion, from now until May 25, the company will waive the $9.99 delivery fee for East Bay orders.

## Sunday Suppers for a Cause

The Sunday Supper — a prix-fixe meal served on what is traditionally a slow night in the restaurant business — is seeing something of a revival in the East Bay. Charlie Hallowell (Pizzaiolo, Boot and Shoe Service, Penrose) is the latest restaurateur to launch a Sunday Supper series — this one with a philanthropic slant.

The idea is simple: For the next year, on the third Sunday of every month (except December), a prominent East Bay restaurant will host a $100 multi-course, prix-fixe dinner. Two-thirds of the proceeds from every dinner will go to a selected local nonprofit organization. So, with two 75-person seatings, each sold-out event represents a $10,000 donation.

Hallowell's Sunday Suppers series will kick off at Penrose (3311 Grand Ave., Oakland) on Sunday, May 18, with seatings at 5:30 and 8 p.m. Proceeds from that dinner will benefit Oakland Leaf, which runs a variety of educational programs for youth.

The menu for Sunday's dinner at Penrose is still a work in progress, but the format will be a three-course family-style meal. The first course will consist of three different salads — a fancier composed salad, a leafy green salad, and a hot grilled salad. The second course will be a slow-braised meat, served with polenta and some kind of cooked spring vegetable. And there will be something for dessert. A house wine, likely donated by a local winemaker or wine shop, will also be included in the cost of the ticket.

Lauren Gross, an event coordinator who is helping to organize the Sunday Suppers, said that she and Hallowell picked the eleven nonprofit beneficiaries for this first year. Initially, Hallowell's three Oakland restaurants will see the bulk of the action, with a handful of others — Miss Ollie's, Box & Bells, and Chez Panisse — hosting dinners as well.

Tickets are available through BrownPaperTickets.com.

## Taco Grill Moves, Expands

Taco Grill — purveyor of sustainably sourced meats and exceptional pozoles in Oakland's Fruitvale neighborhood — has moved across the street into a larger space, as first noted on Chowhound. The casual taqueria, which is now called Obelisco (3411 E. 12th St., Ste. 110), will keep its lunchtime order-at-the-counter service, and add sit-down table service for dinner, according to owner Leticia Chavez. She said she'll start serving two or three rotating entree specials every night — things like *birria* (goat stew), *cochinita pibil* (slow-roasted pork), and chicken or pork in *pipián* (pumpkin seed sauce). ●

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

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# RESTAURANTS & CAFES

## Our Favorite Fancy Italian Restaurants

### A16

5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-768-8003. This Oakland outpost of one of San Francisco's most popular upscale Italian restaurants serves one pizza that's fried, another that's shaped like a tennis racket, and a handful of pasta varieties you've probably never heard of. While the restaurant's paradigm (Southern Italian cuisine prepared with high-quality local ingredients) is familiar, and its menu sticks to dishes traditional to Italy's Campania and Puglia regions, many of these dishes can't be found in other restaurants in the East Bay. In addition to the pizzas (especially the aforementioned fried pizza, the "Montanara Rockridge," which is to die for), A16 Rockridge is a good place to indulge in bold, in-your-face ocean flavors — a bucatini with a golden-yellow sea urchin sauce was one standout — and supremely well-prepared seasonal vegetables. $$$

### A Côté

5478 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6469. This cozy restaurant pretends to serve modest little plates of French- and Italian-inspired food. Like risotto balls (saffron-flavored and stuffed with braised veal). Or pizza (otherwise known as "asparagus and crescenza cheese flatbread with spring onions"). For a small-plates restaurant, the portions are humongous, and so are the flavors. Except when it comes to the french fries. There are never enough French fries. $$$

### Adesso

4395 Piedmont Ave. #2, Oakland, 510-601-0305. This Piedmont Avenue hotspot is famous for its three dozen varieties of house-cured, uniquely spiced salumi, but there's more to the place than salumi: [illegible] with thyme and prosecco; pâtés made of pigeon, rabbit and duck; panini and piadine (Italian flatbread) stuffed with everything from soft shell crab to mozzarella di bufala; unique antipasti like raw tuna and roasted tomato on rounds of chick pea polenta. Get the Sicilian lemon honey gelato for dessert. Dazzling all-Italian wine list; inventive house cocktails (try the totally peachy Posca). The 5-7 p.m. happy hour is the very definition of abbondanza. $$$

### Bellanco

4238 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-1180. This Glenview neighborhood hangout prepares and serves mostly exemplary and always inventive Italian dishes in a warm and convivial setting. Begin your meal with the startlingly good gorgonzola panna cotta or a platter of casarecce, Sicilian pasta with sweet onions, dandelion greens and milk braised goat. The grilled pork chop with cherries and pickled rhubarb is a marvelous entree, and don't miss the tangy cheese cheesecake or the luscious chocolate-date pudding for dessert. Unusual and impressive (primarily Italian) wine list. $$$

### Belli Osteria

2016 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-1902. When Paul Oprescu opened Belli Osteria, a handsome Italian restaurant in downtown Berkeley, he saw there was a niche that hadn't been filled. No one was giving ravioli their due respect. With his fresh pasta dishes, Oprescu marries Old World cooking methods with the creativity made possible by the bountiful produce of Northern California. The results are mostly quite good. Belli's pasta is handmade; its ravioli may not have the melt-in-your-mouth tenderness of the most delicate fresh pastas, but they make up for it in the quality of the fillings, which rotate with the seasons. One featured mellow sweet potatoes, roasted garlic, and goat cheese; another had savory cabbage and braised pork; and yet another, a black squid-ink ravioli, was filled with shrimp and spinach. Prices aren't low for the portion size, but lunch — priced at two to three dollars less per entrée — is a decent deal. $$$

### Bucci's

6121 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-547-4725. The classic neighborhood trattoria blows up big, with the dated look of 1980s postmod, neon, faux marble, and Doric columns made of flimsy Plexiglas. The menu, however, isn't showing its age a bit. Paul Camardo and Mark Valentine's circa 1986 Cal-Ital cooking is all about cheese-plush pizzas with vivid toppings, pastas scattered with a kaleidoscope of ingredients, and simple entrée plates bearing a hefty slab of protein. No longer stylish, Bucci's is free to concentrate on just being good. $$$

### Corso

1788 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8004. This tiny Berkeley storefront (from Rivoli's Wendy Brucker and Roscoe Skipper) evokes the cheerful ambience and simple, soulful cookery of a Florentine trattoria. Rich, creamy mascarpone polenta, rustic egg noodles with braised duck ragout, and grilled pork loin with sweet and sour onions are Italian comfort food at its best, and the ahi tuna tartare and mushroom-fontina-white truffle oil pizzas aren't so bad either. Get the olive oil cake for dessert. Impressive all-Italian wine list. $$$

### Desco

499 9th St., Oakland, 510-663-9000. There are Italian restaurants in the East Bay that serve food that's a bit more refined or more perfectly executed, but Desco offers something rare indeed: a hearty plate of pasta cranked out quickly enough that anyone working near downtown Oakland can enjoy a civilized meal and still get back to the office with time to spare. Chef-owner Donato Scotti touts his use of sustainable ingredients, and the food is meant to be simple and comforting — traditional dishes plated without pomp or fuss. As an added bonus, during lunch, each pasta or pizza is priced about $2 or $3 cheaper compared to the dinner menu, though the portion sizes are the same. Standouts include the casoncei (plump pork-stuffed pasta topped with crispy guanciale), the fresh pappardelle tossed in a lamb-cheek tomato sauce, and the panino desco, a flatbread sandwich filled with pork belly, asiago cheese, and sauerkraut-like braised cabbage. $$-$$$

### Lake Chalet

1520 Lakeside Dr., Oakland, 510-208-5253. Lake Merritt's hundred-year-old boathouse has been beautifully renovated into a destination restaurant/lounge with an outdoor grill, an eighty-foot bar, two fireplaces, and two dining rooms with beautiful views of the lake and the hills beyond. The food doesn't quite live up to the setting, but among the menu standouts are hearty, meaty crab cakes; potato "risotto" with salmon, mushrooms, and bacon; and a truly delectable pineapple upside-down cake. Libations include five microbrews crafted at the restaurant's sister establishment, the Beach Chalet in San Francisco. $$$

### Lungomare

1 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-7171. This second venture from Chris Pastena, Oakland's aspiring restaurant impresario, is — outwardly, anyway — the exact opposite of hip, laidback Chop Bar. At Lungomare, the servers wear uniforms, the music tends toward easy listening, and the ambience is generic waterfront seafood-restaurant. But the important thing is that chef Craig DiFonzo's regional Italian cuisine, inspired by a collection of coastal villages in northwestern Italy known as Cinque Terre, is well worth seeking out. Of particular note, the restaurant is one of the few places in town that offers one or more whole-fish options on a nightly basis — the roasted branzino, when available, is absolutely stunning. Other highlights include the chef's modern reinterpretation of ribollita (a kind of Tuscan bean stew), the decadently creamy whole-grain polenta, and the selection of excellent housemade sodas. $$$

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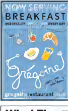

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RITUAL COFFEE ROASTERS

# RECENTLY REVIEWED

## Great China

2190 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-843-7996, GreatChinaBerkeley.com. After suffering a fire, this titan of regional Chinese cookery has reopened in a new, modern-looking space located around the corner from its previous location. Now, the creaky charm of the original dining room has been supplanted by sleek minimalism, and an actual host stand has replaced the old front-of-house system (a pad of paper). Most importantly, the food is better than ever. The restaurant is best known for its Peking duck — a showstopper of a dish — but the menu offers an abundance of other more underrated pleasures: delicate fish dumplings; tiny tempura-battered fried oysters; steamed surf clams served on the half-shell topped with oil and scallions, and sautéed Dungeness crab that you spoon into puffy steamed buns, like a Chinese reinterpretation of a crab roll. And although much of its award-winning wine collection was lost in the fire, Great China remains a worthy destination for oenophiles — a rarity among Chinese restaurants. $$-$$$

## Crossburgers

300 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Ste. 150, Oakland, 510-817-4165, Crossburgers.com. The concept at Crossburgers, broadly writ, is Northern California Diner — burgers and other fast-food fare with a handful of farmers'-market-driven, Slow Food-style embellishments: kale slaw on the sandwiches, Niman Ranch hot dogs, and a beet-and-goat-cheese salad. There is an appealing playfulness to chef Eddie Blyden's menu offerings — fun, hybridized versions of standards such as a Cuban sandwich and a chili-topped Coney Island Hot Dog. The signature Crossburger boasts the kind of thoughtfully conceived components that you might expect at a slightly fancier restaurant: a rich, very challah bun, very melted American cheese, and an habanero-spiked secret sauce that gives the burger its red-hot "crossness." The fries are well seasoned and served piping hot. And the black-eyed pea chili, made with smoked ham hocks and ground chuck, is simply phenomenal — perfectly balanced between soupy and chunky, with enough heat to make you sweat. $$

## Kingston 11

2270 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-465-2558, KingstonEats.com. "One Love" is painted in bold black letters on the outside of Kingston 11's building — a reference to the Bob Marley song, of course, and also to the Jamaican restaurant's sensibility. The first thing you'll notice here is how friendly everyone is. But what will stay with you is chef Nigel Jones' food, much of it lovingly slow-cooked over the course of many hours. The restaurant's signature jerk chicken has the succulence and the deep smoky flavor of competition-grade barbecue, and a deep, penetrating heat that will clear your sinuses straightaway. Braised oxtails are cooked so long, and are so tender, that a fork is scarcely needed. And the curried goat, maybe the best dish of all (available Thursday to Saturday only), has an addictive sweetness and a low, slow-building burn that will linger in your memory. $$-$$$

## Tashi Delek

11224 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-9326, TashiDelekRestaurant.com. Located on a sleepy stretch of San Pablo Avenue, Tashi Delek is not, and doesn't aspire to be, a destination restaurant. But for adventurous eaters and homesick Himalayan ex-pats, the wide-ranging menu offers an intriguing, and often quite delicious, array of Tibetan, Nepali, Bhutanese, and Indian dishes. Start with an order of Tibetan *sha baley* (fried buns with a crisp, chewy exterior and a juicy beef filling) or the Indian street snack known as *samosa chaat*, which features whole chickpeas and the smashed-up pieces of a fried samosa, topped with tamarind chutney and a drizzle of yogurt. For entrees, you can choose from a variety of curry house standards, but for a classic taste of the Himalayas try the rustic thali, a generous portion of *momos* (Central Asia's take on a steamed dumpling) served in a bowl of wholesome, soul-warming beef broth. $-$$

## Oliveto

5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5356. This airy, earth-toned restaurant and cafe continues to earn national kudos for the simplicity and elegance of its Northern-Italian-based menu. Chef Jonah Rhodehamel has taken over where Paul Canales left off, and meals move gracefully from house-made salumi and feather-light pastas to braised pork belly. Downstairs, the renovated cafe offers a cozy, classy little venue for all-day, everyday snacking, sipping, and dining. $$-$$$

## Revival Bar & Kitchen

2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-9950. Amy Murray's bustling downtown venue celebrates the Bay Area's bounty of fresh, organic foodstuffs with flair and a sense of fun. Inventive cocktail menu, well-chosen wine list. $$$

## Riva Cucina

800 Heinz Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-7482. Chef-owner Massimiliano Bolchini grew up in Emilia-Romagna, the Italian region that invented pasta. Naturally, the many house-made shapes are fantastic, framed with the kind of radical simplicity that makes a dish like *tubes* with tomato sauce and grilled sardines taste primordial. Bolchini is fussy about his seafood — it's usually local and consistently delicious. The semi-hidden space he's carved out feels casual for a restaurant with such serious chops, but hey, it's all part of the charm. $$-$$$

## Southie

6311 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-0100. Wood Tavern's casual, cozy next-door offshoot serves a brief yet tantalizing menu of artisan sandwiches (the Dungeness crab roll with aioli is especially toothsome) as well as a soup of the day, a couple of cutting-edge crostini, and a few salads (get the poached egg and bacon with frisée and scallions). Sarah's Whoopie Pie — carrot cake layered with cream cheese ice cream — is one of the East Bay's outstanding desserts, and there are two rotating beers and three or four rotating wines on tap. The tiny tables, counter seating, and friendly, breezy vibe make the place ideal for takeout orders, single diners, and couples. $$$

## Trattoria La Siciliana

2993 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-1474. Despite the fact that the local food cognoscenti rarely mention it, Trattoria La Siciliana remains wildly popular sixteen years after it first opened. The secret, in part, is garlic — tons of it, nowhere more prominent than in the intense *olio della mamma*, the complimentary dipping oil that starts your meal. Clearly this is a restaurant that aims to bowl you over, to sock you in the face with flavor. And if you order wisely — sticking mostly to seafood dishes and Sicilian specialties — it's likely you'll be won over. Highlights include a seasonal heirloom tomato salad that's amped up with olives, capers, and anchovy fillets; the *bucatini* with *finocchiaria*, whose saffron- and currant-based sauce speaks to Sicily's Moorish influence; and, most luxurious of all, the *tutto mare linguine* with its insanely addictive lobster-infused fresh tomato sauce. $$-$$$

## Price Key

**Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately: $ — up to $10 per person; $$ — $10-$25; $$$ — $25-$50; $$$$ — more than $50.**

# FOOD & WINE

## CULINARY & WINE

**Alameda Food Truck Popup** Popup Shop with food trucks, music, fashion trucks, and arts and crafts [illegible]. First and third Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. [illegible] St., Alameda, [illegible] and Oakland. 510-922-7223, [illegible]

**Beer & Wine at [illegible] Berkeley** Beer and wine tasting, [illegible] food [illegible] and artisan [illegible] by Oakland East Bay Symphony [illegible] members. Plus live music by members of the symphony and Dirty [illegible]. Sat, May 17, 6-8 p.m. $15-$20. [illegible] Berkeley 55 [illegible] St. [illegible] 510-412-1264. [illegible].com

**Backyard BBQ** With [illegible] spicy [illegible] sausages. Sat., May 17, 2 p.m. The Trappist, 460 8th St., Oakland, 510-238-8900. TheTrappist.com.

**Bay Area [illegible] Market** Featuring local food and craft vendors from around the Bay Area. May 17, 3-7 p.m. [illegible] Collective, 2590 Adeline St., Berkeley.

**Cheesemaking: Ricotta and Fresh Cheese** Learn how to make ricotta and mini [illegible] cheeses. Plus, cheese-tasting. Sun., May 18, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. $65. Sticky Art Lab, 1682 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-981-1146. StickyArtLab.com.

**Farmstead Wine Tasting** A bi-weekly wine tasting w/ all proceeds benefiting local schools. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m.; Saturdays, 2-6 p.m.; Fridays, 5-7:30 p.m. $7 per flight. Farmstead Cheeses & Wines, 4238 La Salle Ave., Oakland, 510-864-9463. FarmsteadCheesesandWines.com.

**Food Market [illegible] Market** Featuring food trucks, tents, carts, and other vendors, including [illegible], Peter's Kettle Corn, [illegible] Mike's [illegible], [illegible] Corner (Hawaiian-Filipino comfort foods), and [illegible] Truck (coffee and dog treats). Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. College of Alameda, 555 Atlantic Ave., Alameda, 510-522-7221, Alameda.Peralta.edu.

**Off the Grid: [illegible]** Food trucks, drinks for sale, music, kids' [illegible] and half-price museum admission. Fridays, 5-9 p.m. Free. Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland, 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

**Off the Grid: North Berkeley** Featuring ten or more food trucks, every [illegible] Sundays, 5-8 p.m. North Berkeley BART, 1750 Sacramento St., Berkeley. [illegible]

**[illegible]** More than thirty five craft [illegible] vendors, [illegible] with [illegible] from local vendors, live music, and beer education by local brewers. Sat., May 17, 12-4 p.m., $25-$30. Jack London Square, [illegible] Broadway, Oakland.

**Bead & [illegible] East Bay [illegible]** [illegible] of [illegible] vendors supporting community organizations involved in the East Bay arts and dinners. Organization for May in Oakland. Last Sun., May 18, 6:30 7:30 & 8:30 p.m. $200. [illegible] Ave. Oakland. 510-444-1649. [illegible].org.

**Vintage Berkeley Wines Tasting** Try five wines for $5 at both the Vine St. and College Ave. stores. [illegible] Facebook page earlier in the day for [illegible] of what bottles will be poured that day. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m., $5. Vintage Berkeley, 2113 Vine St., Berkeley, 510-665-8600.

## FARMERS' MARKETS

**Alameda Farmers' Market** With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. [illegible] Alameda Farmers Market, Haight Ave. at Webster St., Alameda.

**BANA Fresh Choice Community Farmers Market** Farm Stand: [illegible] produce stands in [illegible] neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m. Free. 510-848-1704, [illegible]. Bay Area Berkeley [illegible] for Advancement, 1718 Eighth St., Berkeley, 510-525-1462, [illegible].

**Haight Ovation Oakland Market** Fresh produce supplied by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Free. [illegible] Park, Kaiser [illegible] 1555 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-387-8000. [illegible].

**East Plaza Union City Farmers' Market** With fruits, vegetables, and greens, as well as freshly baked breads and pastries, specialty foods, fresh flowers, and more. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Union City BART, 10 Union Square, Union City. 510-494-7134. BART [illegible].

**Freedom Farmers' Market** With affordable produce from California's African American and local [illegible] farmers, as well as baked goods from local bakers. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Farmers Kitchen, 3000 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-371-4794.

**Fruitvale Farmers' Market** With locally grown food, [illegible], trucks, health [illegible], honey products, and more. [illegible] WIC and EBT. Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Free. 510-535-6920. Farmers BART transit, 3401 East 12th St., Oakland.

**Grand Lake Farmers' Market** The weekly market [illegible] more than 20 specialty produce, fresh meat and seafood and crafts vendors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 800-897-3276. [illegible] Farmers [illegible] Park, Grand and Lake Park Ave., Oakland. 510-238-7275. [illegible]

**Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market** With vendors selling with all-organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. PCFMA.com. Kaiser Oakland, 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

**Kensington Farmers' Market** With a rotating [illegible] flowers, an organic chocolatier, free products, fresh wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, butter, bread, cheese, fresh [illegible], and seasonal surprises. The market also hosts live music and entertainment. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 510-847-0801, KensingtonFarmersMarket.org. [illegible] at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

**Montclair Village Farmers' Market** Featuring organic produce and [illegible] foods. Free parking in [illegible] garage at the top of La Salle Avenue. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. FarmersVillage.com/farmers_market. [illegible] Downtown Montclair Village, LaSalle and Moraga Aves., Oakland.

**North Berkeley Farmers' Market** With breads, specialty foods, all-organic produce, and more for sale, along with [illegible] programs and events. WIC and [illegible] accepted. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m. Free. 510-548-3333, [illegible].org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

**[illegible] Children's Hospital Farmers' Market** EBT and WIC okay. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. Free. 510-258-7657. [illegible]. Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland, 747 52nd St., Oakland.

**[illegible] Oakland [illegible] and Lowell Farmers' Market** With seasonal organic produce from Bay Area farms and fish market goods. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Free. [illegible]. [illegible] Saturday Farmers' [illegible], 5715 Market St., Oakland.

**Old Oakland Farmers' Market** Farmers produce, breads, fish, free other organic foods, along with plenty of samples. Fridays, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Old Oakland Farmers' Market, 9th St. Farmers Broadway and Clay St., Oakland. [illegible]

**Berkeley Oakland [illegible]** With local organic fruits and vegetables, EBT foods, as well as cash and credit [illegible] Alameda. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Hayward Food Stamp Office, 24100 Amador St., Oakland.

**Pacific [illegible] Market Square Farmers' Market** With seasonal Oakland, greens, nuts, freshly baked bread, produce [illegible], specialty foods, yoga classes, live music, and arts and crafts for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. PCFMA.com. Jack London Square, Broadway and Water St., Oakland.

**Richmond Farmers' Market** With breads, locally grown fruit, [illegible], flowers, eggs, and other produce. WIC and EBT accepted. Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. RichmondFarmersMarket.org. Richmond Farmers Market, 24th St. and Barrett Ave., Richmond.

**Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market** With fresh and organic specialty breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus [illegible] Alameda, and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-6150, CI.Berkeley.ca.us.

**[illegible] Berkeley Farmers' Market** With fresh produce and other food for sale. Tuesdays, 2-6:30 p.m. South Berkeley Farmers Market, [illegible] and 63rd St., Berkeley. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org.

**[illegible] Farmers' Market** California vendors farmers [illegible] produce, other fruits and nuts, fresh baked eggs, baked goods, freshly caught fish, fresh-cut flowers, and more. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Free. 800-949-3276. [illegible] Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

**Berkeley South Berkeley Farmers' Market** Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special Alameda, and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., Free. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Berkeley Berkeley Farmers Market, Adeline and Alcatraz streets, Berkeley. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. ●

# PICK

### Not Your Mother's Garden Party

A fundraiser for at-risk families, the Alameda Point Collaborative's fourth annual Not Your Mother's Garden Party will feature food, drinks, and live music at Ploughshares Nursery (2701 Main St., Alameda) on Sunday. Mixologists from St. George Spirits will create custom cocktails, folks from Pacific Fast Food will serve treats made with sustainably grown produce from APC's FarmerMarket program, and Oakland-based trio the Hot Toddies will sing tunes from their album *Smell the Mitten*. *—Anneli Rufus*

*Sunday, May 18, 3-6 p.m., $30. APCollaborative.org*

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# HAVES AND HAVE-NOTS

### Growing up in 18th-century England (*Belle*) and contemporary *Palo Alto*

By Kelly Vance

*Belle* is an inspiring, basically true story of injustice overruled

The latest example of the important rule "Never judge a movie by its advertising" is *Belle*, a costumed drama from the UK directed by actress-turned-filmmaker Amma Asante. From its ad art, which features the splendidly dressed actress Gugu Mbatha-Raw standing in a similarly decked-out antique European drawing room, we might expect *Belle* to be a Coffee-Table Film with a bonus wrinkle. We'd be right, up to a point. But the film goes much further than that.

In the first fifteen minutes there's a strong whiff of vintage Merchant Ivory/*A Little Princess*/Jane Austen romantic scene-setting, as we witness the key moments of Dido Elizabeth Belle's early life. Dido is the daughter of Captain Sir John Lindsay (Matthew Goode) and a dimly remembered black woman from somewhere in the colonies. The film opens in 1769 with eight-year-old Dido's Royal Navy officer father delivering her for safekeeping to the country household of his uncle, William Murray, First Earl of Mansfield (Tom Wilkinson). Lord Mansfield, who happens to be the Lord Chief Justice of England, accepts the child (played by Lauren Julien Box) wholeheartedly — she's his blood relative and thus automatically qualifies as a noble regardless of the color of her skin.

It's only when the beautiful Dido reaches her young womanhood that her situation becomes truly topical. She suddenly acquires a permanent income, guaranteeing her a comfortable life and removing the necessity of the family finding her a suitable husband — an almost impossible task not only because of her mixed race but also because convention dictates that she mustn't marry below her station. Thus while her "sisterly" cousin and best friend Elizabeth "Bette" Murray (Sarah Gadon) is consumed with the quest to land a worthy mate among the local upper-class twits, Dido can relax a bit. The only need she has to satisfy is the desire for true love.

Dido, a headstrong quick study as opposed to the lightweight Bette, is faced with a three-pronged dilemma. First and foremost is her blackness. The 18th-century British Empire derived a sizable percentage of its income from the African slave trade, and aside from the usual xenophobic fear/disdain toward people of color, the taint of servitude hangs over any non-white person, no matter how powerful her uncle might be. For instance, when Lord and Lady Mansfield (the latter played by Emily Watson) entertain important guests at their dinner table, Dido is required to be absent, appearing only after dinner to perform on the piano and answer snobbish inquiries about her lineage.

**Belle**

Directed by Amma Asante. With Gugu Mbatha-Raw and Tom Wilkinson. Now playing.

**Palo Alto**

Directed by Gia Coppola. With Emma Roberts and James Franco. Opens Friday.

The second obstacle is the near-comical upper-class English habit of calculating a prospective mate's financial worth in addition to his/her class status. Jockeying for passive income and social position is a full-time job for those people. The Mansfield/Murrays' aristocratic neighbor in Hampstead Village, Lady Ashford (Miranda Richardson, chewing the brocade off the upholstery) might recoil at the sight of Dido, but she certainly admires the fact that the Mansfields have no male heirs. So if she can contrive to marry off one of her sons — bigoted bully James (Tom Felton) or mild-mannered Oliver (James Norton) — to cousin Bette, the Ashfords could inherit the Mansfield estate. Meanwhile, lucky Dido, liberated by her inheritance, strikes up a friendship with the vicar's son John Davinier (Sam Reid), a free-thinking member of the professional middle class.

Dido's third barrier is that she's a woman, always considered the property of whatever man to whom she is attached. Actress Mbatha-Raw, a native of Oxford, portrays the real-life character of Dido as culturally advanced in all the aforementioned troublesome arenas of public and personal life. In the screenplay's version of history, Dido's example directly influences the Lord Chief Justice's thinking in a landmark court case involving slave traders insuring their property (human chattel) against loss (in this case, murder). Times are changing in England and Dido is at the forefront. So screenwriter Misan Sagay and director Asante can congratulate themselves. They manage to overcome the romance-novel tempest-in-a-teapot syndrome by using the same basic ingredients to tell an inspiring, basically true story of injustice overruled. With sumptuous gowns and interiors, of course.

*Palo Alto* makes us appreciate Gus Van Sant all over again. It's not that Gia Coppola, granddaughter of Francis Ford Coppola, doesn't show promise in her filmmaking debut — it's her choice of material. Coppola adapted her screenplay from a putatively semi-autobiographical collection of short stories by ridiculously prolific author-actor-writer-producer-director James Franco about troubled high-schoolers in Franco's Peninsula hometown. Franco is seriously overexposed these days, but that's not necessarily the problem, either.

The problem is working up the enthusiasm to sit through another piecemeal saga of over-privileged teenagers acting out their growing pains by taking drugs and hurting each others' feelings, then waking up and feeling sorry about it. At this point, if you're going to do troubled teens you'd better have some combination of a unique point of view, memorable actors, and sparkling dialogue. Director Van Sant, for all his excesses in movies like *Paranoid Park* and *Elephant*, usually makes his adolescents and their anxieties seem real. Franco and Coppola do not. The misunderstood kids — led by Emma Roberts as sweet-natured April, Jack Kilmer as busted stoner Teddy, and Nat Wolff as Teddy's ultra-cool, deeply sad buddy Fred — come out of the same box as hundreds, perhaps thousands, of similarly disaffected movie youths from hotbeds of social rest like the title suburb, with few distinguishing characteristics. Only April arouses our sympathy. The kids constantly get high and so do their parents (Val Kilmer, father of Jack, plays April's dad as a long-haired burnout). Worse, Franco shows up as April's predatory soccer coach.

The Coppolas, as everybody knows, are a story of their own. Gia's aunt Sofia had a few shaky outings, too, before she hit her stride in *The Bling Ring*. Screenwriter-director Gia and actress Roberts team up convincingly for *Palo Alto*'s moistest scenes, so there's hope. Coppola didn't really deserve to be saddled with Franco the first time out, but it's better than shopping your work around for years with no connections. Tough time to be young. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

# MOVIES & THEATERS

*To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Zainab.Mohammad@EastBayExpress.com*

## OPENING

**Chef** [illegible] and middle-of-the-road, family-style [illegible] despite the "R" for language — fun with the story of a [illegible] pariah Carl (Jon Favreau, who also writes and directs), threatened by a nasty food critic (Oliver Platt) and a pushy boss (Dustin Hoffman), who chucks it all to launch a Cuban-sandwich food truck. The cast is [illegible] as the mouths of food being prepared [illegible] Sofia Vergara as Carl's ultra-friendly ex; John Leguizamo as Carl's culinary sidekick; [illegible] as the [illegible] Downey Jr., very funny as the ex's ex; Bobby Cannavale as a [illegible] and Emjay Anthony as Carl's young son, who learns the [illegible] getting some up-dates with his pal, live and [illegible]. Guaranteed to make you hungry (115 min.). (K.V.)

**Documented** There are eleven million undocumented Americans living in this country. One of them is Jose Antonio Vargas, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist whose *New York Times Magazine* story "Outlaw" [illegible] when it was published in 2011 — and whose life this [illegible] documentary bio. Vargas, a native of the Philippines who came to Mountain View, California when he was twelve on a [illegible] visa to visit his grandparents and stayed on. Antonio [illegible] with plenty of personal insights [illegible] to consider his tagline, "Define American." The upshot: We come to the realization that some of the best people in the US don't have papers. Vargas wrote and produced with co-direction by Ann Lupo (88 min.). (K.V.)

**The Double** [illegible] office drudge Simon (Jesse Eisenberg) works overtime as a classic loser. He works anonymously in an [illegible] office and is inept, doing everything wrong while being picked on by his bosses (Wallace Shawn, James Fox), a [illegible] (Yasmin Paige), [illegible] an eye for (Mia Wasikowska), and, eventually, his arrogant, overbearing doppelganger, [illegible]. Director Richard Ayoade's [illegible] adaptation of the Fyodor Dostoevsky novella demonstrates why that [illegible] has been a favorite of [illegible] It's a decent [illegible] But by the halfway [illegible], we're paying more attention to Kyu Sakamoto's "Sukiyaki" and other obscure Japanese pop music on the soundtrack than to the [illegible] plot line. The UK production [illegible] Paddy Considine, and Sally Hawkins, with screenplay adaptation by Ayoade and Avi Korine (93 min.). (K.V.)

**God's Pocket** Life is tough in the [illegible] neighborhood here with the [illegible] thieves, drunks, and double-crossers. [illegible] with an [illegible] late Philip Seymour Hoffman, John Turturro, Christina Hendricks, Richard Jenkins [illegible] and dialogue adapted from Pete Dexter's novel, [illegible] The [illegible] and then the bodies start to fall. [illegible] the big-screen directorial debut for John Slattery [illegible] Alex Metcalf helped Slattery adapt the screenplay (88 min.). (K.V.)

**Godzilla** [illegible] ghosts hangs over this [illegible] blockbuster [illegible] for any summer special-effects pic [illegible] The King of the Monsters is back, to terrorize Tokyo, Honolulu, Las Vegas, and San Francisco on his way to "restoring the balance of nature," while [illegible] Aaron Taylor-Johnson, his [illegible] Elizabeth Olsen, and [illegible] scientist Ken Watanabe look on [illegible]. Moral of the story: [illegible] the Earth and she will send Gojira to [illegible] the big guy's epic [illegible] in downtown SF [illegible] for development [illegible] by English TV [illegible] Edwards. From a script by Max Borenstein and a story by Dave Callaham.

**Showtimes Online**

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com, or by scanning the code below [illegible] Bryan Cranston, Sally Hawkins, Juliette Binoche and David Strathairn [illegible] (123 min.) [KV]

**Million Dollar Arm** [illegible] (123 min.)

**Palo Alto** Gia Coppola, granddaughter to Francis Ford Coppola, [illegible] James Franco's [illegible] short story collection [illegible] Coppola's [illegible] suburban teenagers [illegible] with drugs and [illegible] Emma Roberts [illegible] (98 min.) [KJ]

**Falling Star** [illegible] (97 min.)

## ENCORE

**The Amazing Spider-Man 2** [illegible] Andrew Garfield [illegible] Jamie Foxx [illegible] (141 min.) [KV]

**Bears** Filmmakers Alastair Fothergill and Keith Scholey [illegible] (77 min.)

**Belle** [illegible] Amma Asante [illegible] Gugu Mbatha-Raw [illegible] Tom Wilkinson [illegible] Emily Watson [illegible] Sam Reid [illegible] (105 min.) [KJ]

[illegible] How can you [illegible]

[illegible] (Jeremy Renner) [illegible] (110 min.) [KV]

**Captain America: The Winter Soldier** [illegible] Steve Rogers, aka Captain America (Chris Evans) [illegible] Scarlett Johansson [illegible] (136 min.)

[illegible] (138 min.) [KV]

**Fading Gigolo** [illegible]

John Turturro, Woody Allen, Liev Schreiber, Vanessa Paradis, Sharon Stone, and Sofia Vergara [illegible] (90 min.) [KV]

**Finding Vivian Maier** [illegible] John Maloof [illegible] Vivian Maier [illegible] (83 min.) [KV]

**The Galapagos Affair: Satan Came to Eden** Dan Geller and Dayna Goldfine's [illegible] documentary [illegible] 1929 [illegible]

[illegible] (120 min.) [KJ]

**The Dismissal** [illegible]

[illegible] (92 min.) [KV]

**The Grand Budapest Hotel** Wes Anderson [illegible]

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– Manohla Dargis, The New York Times

“REMARKABLE. BOTH OF ITS TIME AND TIMELESS”
Stephanie Zacharek, The Village Voice

“HAUNTING AND MEMORABLE with a surprising sweetness at its core and a wonderful star performance from Emma Roberts.”
Andrew O'Hehir, Salon

“HYPNOTIC Coppola makes us care, capturing the fever and fleetingness of first love in a way that marks a born filmmaker”
Peter Travers, Rolling Stone

“IMPRESSIVE” Stephen Holden, The New York Times

“A KNOCKOUT.”

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[illegible] hotel concierge (Ralph Fiennes in top form), [illegible] everyone [illegible] in Hollywood. [illegible] with Anderson, [illegible] Monsieur Gustave [illegible] of the fictional country of Zubrowka, played by Tony [illegible]. This [illegible] Adrien Brody, [illegible], Jeff Goldblum, Harvey Keitel, Jude Law, Bill Murray, Saoirse Ronan, Edward Norton, Tom Wilkinson and many, many more. It [illegible] adds up to one of Anderson's most appealing [illegible]. Just don't [illegible] at the screenplay. Written by Anderson and Hugo Guinness (100 min.) (KV)

**Heaven Is for Real** A small-town businessman and pastor Todd Burpo (Greg Kinnear) and his wife, Sonja (Kelly Reilly) are overjoyed when their young son Colton (Connor Corum) [illegible] emergency surgery [illegible] recovery. However, when [illegible] says [illegible] to heaven and back, his parents must [illegible] to share his story with the world. (110 min.)

**Legends of Oz: Dorothy's Return** Dorothy (Lea Michele) enlists the aid of friends old and new to help [illegible] from the Jester, the evil [illegible] of the Wicked Witch of the West. (90 min.)

**Locke** Actor Tom Hardy dominates the screen — in fact, he's practically the only person up there — in this [illegible] Ivan Locke (Hardy) leaves his job as a construction [illegible] to London. On the way, in real time, he [illegible] on the phone with [illegible] his increasingly perplexed [illegible], his distraught wife and sons, and a woman who happens to [illegible] hospital [illegible] giving birth to Ivan's [illegible]. As the [illegible] so does Hardy's performance. Writer-director Steven Knight (... *Eastern Promises* and *Dirty Pretty Things*) [illegible] based on Hardy's presence, and the [illegible] voice support by Olivia Colman, Ruth Wilson, Andrew Scott, and [illegible] on the phone and of the line. Tough but rewarding. A truly exceptional film (85 min.) (KV)

**The Lunchbox** A mistaken delivery in Mumbai's lunchbox delivery system connects a young housewife to an older widower [illegible] (105 min.)

**Moms' Night Out** Frazzled Allyson (Sarah Drew), Sondra (Patricia Heaton) and Izzy (Andrea Logan White) plan a short break from [illegible] to have a girls night, relying on their husbands to watch the children for [illegible] adapted in an unforgettable night [illegible] (98 min.)

**Neighbors** New parents Mac (Seth Rogen) and Kelly (Rose Byrne) [illegible] after a [illegible] moves in next door. (97 min.)

**Only Lovers Left Alive** Plenty of atmosphere in Jim Jarmusch's vampire love story, but the story is [illegible]. Ghostly Eve (Tilda Swinton) [illegible] in Tangier [illegible] Christopher "Kit" Marlowe (John Hurt). But Eve misses music-loving nightdweller Adam (Tom Hiddleston), who occupies an apartment [illegible] in Detroit [illegible]. Writer-director Jarmusch [illegible] Mia Wasikowska and Jeffrey Wright [illegible] (123 min.) (KV)

**The Other Woman** After discovering her boyfriend is married, Carly (Cameron Diaz) [illegible] when she meets [illegible], his wife [illegible] (Kate Upton) [illegible] (109 min.)

**The Quiet Ones** A paranormal [illegible] (Jared Harris, never better), his [illegible] students, [illegible] (Olivia Cooke [illegible]) [illegible] the Hammer Film Productions [illegible], director John Pogue (*Ghost Ship*, *Quarantine 2*). [illegible] psychological thriller, [illegible] screenplay by [illegible] Craig Rosenberg and Oren Moverman (adapted from Tom de Ville's original screenplay). The young [illegible] (98 min.) (KV)

**Rio 2** After blue macaws Blu (Jesse Eisenberg) and Jewel (Anne Hathaway) [illegible] Amazon jungle [illegible] (Andy Garcia) [illegible] (Jemaine Clement). (101 min.)

**Transcendence** Dr. Will Caster (Johnny Depp), the world's foremost authority on artificial intelligence, [illegible] machine [illegible] (Rebecca Hall), and [illegible] Paul Bettany [illegible] realize it may be impossible to stop him. (119 min.)

**Under the Skin** A impossibly young "woman" [illegible] of Glasgow, Scotland, [illegible] Scarlett Johansson in a black wig, [illegible] Jonathan Glazer's [illegible] cinematography by Daniel Landin, [illegible] Mica Levi's [illegible] Michel Faber [illegible] screenplay by [illegible]. Recommended (107 min.) (KV)

## ONE NIGHT STANDS

### THURSDAY, MAY 15

**Sherlock Holmes, Terror By Night** (60 min., 1946). (Magick Lantern, Point Richmond, 7:30)
**The Dark Crystal** (93 min., 1982). (UA Berkeley 7, 9:00)
**[illegible]** (80 min., 2008). (Parkway Lounge [illegible] 8:30)

### FRIDAY, MAY 16

**Young and Beautiful** (95 min., 2014). (Magick Lantern, 5:00)
**Epic** (102 min., 2013). Family Movie in the Courtyard (Studio One Art Center, Oakland, 7:30)
**Despicable Me 2** (98 min., 2013). Grand Hill Heights Movies in the Park (Redwood Heights Recreation Center, Oakland, sundown)
**The Big Lebowski** (117 min., 1998). New Parkway Cult Night (Parkway, 10:30)

### SATURDAY, MAY 17

**[illegible]** (91 min., 2014). (Magick Lantern, 7:30)
**The Room** (99 min., 2003). (Piedmont, [illegible] midnight)

### SUNDAY, MAY 18

**[illegible] Psycho** (90 min., 2014). Followed by Q&A with director [illegible] (Parkway, 7:00)

### TUESDAY, MAY 20

**The Violin** (98 min., 2005). Amazonia Revolutionary Film series (La Peña Cultural Center, Berkeley, 6:30)
**Inside Out: The People's Art Project** (71 min., 2013). Presented by the [illegible] Film Festival (Parkway, 7:00)

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

**The Organ + Life** (80 min., 2012). Followed by discussion with filmmaker [illegible] (La Peña Cultural Center, 6:30)
**B.B. King: The Life of Riley** (123 min., 2014). (Cerrito, Elmwood [illegible], 7:00)
**King Lear** (180 min., 2014). Presented by National Theatre Live (Grand Cinemas Cerrito, 7:00)
**The Untold History of the United States—Chapter Two: [illegible] Truman, [illegible] Wallace** (58 min., 2012). (Humanist Hall, Oakland, 7:30)

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12:00 pm: Bellsfrom Beam
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4:15 pm: Scent of Juniper

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[illegible]
TASTING MENU
(5:05) 7:10 9:20 PG-13
[illegible]

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(3:25) 4:30 7:15 9:30 PG-13

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MON-WED: 6:00, 8:45 (2D)

MILLION DOLLAR ARM (PG)
FRI-SUN: 12:45 4:15 7:15 9:45
MON-WED: 4:15 7:15 9:45

NEIGHBORS (R)
FRI-SUN: 12:15 2:30 5:00 7:30, 9:40
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# THE LIVING ROOM STAGE

The East Bay is home to a growing number of intimate, residential performance spaces

By Sam Levin

Performers at a recent Monkey House show

Ira Marlowe writes songs that tell stories. That means the singer-songwriter's performances are most successful when audiences can hear his lyrics — which is why gigs at bars and cafes can be challenging. "At cafe gigs, even if people are quiet, you still got the espresso machine going, people walking in and out of the door," said the longtime Bay Area musician. "It never feels like where you want to be."

His desire for a quieter, more intimate venue was one of the reasons why he decided to start the Monkey House, a North Berkeley performance space that's actually in the living room of his live/work space. For years, Marlowe had wanted to host shows, but, he said, "I knew it would not be financially feasible if I had to pay for a rental as well as an apartment." So in February 2012, Marlowe moved into a new home, named it the Monkey House, and began booking artists. Today he hosts events — a mix of acoustic music, comedy, storytelling, improv, magic shows, and more — mostly on weekends. The living room is equipped with a small stage, a sound system and stage lights, and enough folding chairs and couches to seat about a few dozen people. Behind the space is a green room, a small office area, a kitchen, and Marlowe's bedroom.

The Monkey House is just one of a growing number of East Bay house concert venues that feature local and touring bands. Typically these venues don't sell tickets or alcohol — the usual requirements for a cabaret license in cities. Many, however, do take donations and have a relaxed BYOB policy. Most avoid promoting their events and instead rely on mailing lists they've cultivated over time. Often, they also have websites or Facebook pages that don't reveal their addresses but have publicly viewable calendars. For shows at Monkey House, for example, people must send an email to reserve a seat, and only then are they given the address. Other venues have a more relaxed policy. As long as they avoid the ire from neighbors, the venues tend to fly under the radar. Marlowe said Monkey House doesn't book loud shows and ends its performances early.

While underground venues in the East Bay are nothing new, these house concerts occupy a niche that's distinct from the DIY warehouse scene. For starters, the house concerts are quieter — attracting performers and listeners who prefer the intimate setting of a living room to the boisterousness of a bar. "People who play here uniformly love it," said Marlowe. "You can hear every word the singer is singing. ... It's just a comfortable space and the audience is respectful and listening."

"Bar music is its own genre now," said Joey Lent, a 69-year-old musician who, since 1993, has run a popular house concert space called Strings in his North Oakland home. "If house concerts didn't exist, I don't know where I would go to hear music I like. Thank goodness now there are house concerts all over."

It's hard to know just how many house concerts are currently operating in the Bay Area, but people with knowledge of these venues say there are a lot — and that the scene has grown substantially in recent years. "The SF Bay Area is the world capital of house concerts," said Fran Snyder, founder of ConcertsInYourHome.com, a website that connects house concert hosts with artists. Snyder, who is based in Florida, said that Northern California appears to have the highest concentration of house concerts in the country — at least based on users of Concerts In Your Home. He said there are about forty Bay Area house concert venues currently active on his site — but that number likely represents a small fraction of the total. A Bay Area House Concerts Meetup group, which publicizes local shows, currently has nearly 1,200 members.

While many new licensed music venues have opened in the East Bay recently, demand for places to play — especially small performance spaces — remains high. "The musicians I know complain tremendously about the lack of good venues," said Jimmy Pedersen, who operates Avenova out of his Rockridge living room. He said he has to turn down about 70 percent of the musicians who ask to play at the venue. "There's a need on the part of the artistic community," he said. "They need to make a living. They need exposure. And they need experience performing." Pedersen said he only books artists that he is confident can bring a crowd — so that they generate at least modest revenue from the gig.

For audiences, house venues also offer a unique ambiance. At Avenova, musicians perform in front of a massive window that looks out toward a beautiful garden, where guests can mingle in between sets. "Things happen in a living room that don't happen at Yoshi's or Duende," said Pedersen. "People talk to the artists during the show ... and at intermission, there's no place for the artist to go, so it's very intimate."

Avenova has a mailing list of roughly 1,300 people, Pedersen said, and bands also bring their own crowds. Audiences come from all over the Bay Area. At a recent Avenova show of Johnny Harper and Carnival, a woman sitting next to me said she came from Sonoma County after hearing about the performance on the radio. She said venues like *Avenova* made her wish she lived in Oakland. The East Bay house concert venues I've been to all share qualities: They're spacious, homey, and comfortable.

While house concerts are clearly alluring for musicians and fans, for operators, they can be a time-consuming, albeit rewarding, hobby. Often, they just barely break even or lose money. Snyder said house venues are most successful when they operate on a small scale, give touring artists an opportunity to interact with audience members, and pay performing musicians. "The idea ... is to keep them from losing money, as well as helping them plant seeds in a new area where they don't have an existing fan base."

Husband and wife Eric and Cindy Camp, who host monthly house concerts in their Oakland hills home under the name SYLA (Support Your Local Artists) Presents, said they sometimes even allow traveling artists to stay overnight. "It's all just a way of giving to the artists and promoting live music," Cindy said. "And we get to throw a great party and meet some fun people." Noise complaints have never been a problem, she added. "Most of our neighbors come, so that seems to help."

Some operators of house venues say they're a way to bring good music right to their doorstep: "I adore having great musicians in my own house," said Anne Emerick, who runs the Western Ways House Concert Series in her Rockridge house and backyard. "I'm sailing on a cloud for at least a week afterward." ●

Sam.Levin@EastBayExpress.com

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# BAND FOR A DAY

When seven local musicians got together for a birthday party, they ended up with an album

By Whitney Phaneuf

Charlemagne Charmaine and Paul Korte are two of hundreds of musicians who practice at the West Oakland rehearsal space Oakland Music Complex. But if you consider all of their projects, they're in enough bands to fill a good portion of the 160-room compound. On March 16 they started yet another group, but — as the name Drifting House implies — it came together, recorded an album, and dissolved in one day.

The two met in 2011 at San Francisco's Temple Randolph Studios, where Korte then worked and keyboardist/vocalist Charmaine was recording a solo project with engineer Brian Davy. Charmaine and Korte quickly became involved romantically and creatively, forming the goth pop band Catharsis for Cathedral, while Korte also played guitar in Symbolick Jews and Charmaine produced an album under the name Rose Mystica. Korte joined the popular local rock group Brasil in 2012, while Charmaine contributed to the "story-rock" collective Matt Holdaway's Army. (Frontman Matt Holdaway tells stories while the band rocks out.) Charmaine added that she and Korte are also working on an electronic music project called Cassandra.

The couple began renting a large room in the Oakland Music Complex about a year ago, which Korte then turned into yet another new venture — Treasure Valley Studios. Having a studio has made recording easier, Korte said, but it doesn't necessarily speed up the often arduous process of making music.

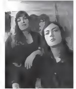
"I'm working on so many projects that aren't done. We've been working on Catharsis for Cathedral's album since April 2013," said Korte, adding that the band hopes to release its debut full-length this summer. "Brasil has been playing the same songs for a year and we're finally going to start recording in July."

So for Korte and Charmaine, Drifting House presented something novel: a way to experiment with new sounds and play with new musicians without having to worry about where it would lead.

"I invited a bunch of people to jam and put a wide net out there, just to see who would come," Charmaine said.

The session was also part of Charmaine's birthday party, which started at Lake Merritt and ended at the studio. "I've always wanted to form a group that hasn't necessarily played together," Charmaine said. "There's a freedom in the fact that it was so spontaneous. The pressure was off."

The seven musicians in Drifting House included the couple's Catharsis for Cathedral and Symbolick Jews bandmate Vanessa Robinson, but also friends they had never collaborated with before, including James Lewis (the guitarist for In Letter Form) and his girlfriend Katie Spurlock.



Charlemagne Charmaine and Paul Korte Joshua Ian

"I didn't even know [Spurlock] was a musician," Korte said. Charmaine added, "She turned out to be a really big part of the sound."

Before hitting "record," Charmaine said the group decided to create something "Brian Eno-esque," which would be entirely improvised and instrumental. Charmaine, Korte, Robinson, and Spurlock each took a turn on the drums, Korte and Lewis shared lead guitar duties, while Phillip Villarreal stuck to synthesizer and Matt Holdaway played a West African talking drum.

The two-and-a-half-hour jam yielded *3.16.14*, an album that traverses droning dream pop and krautrock, but manages to maintain a consistently dark tone and sense of drama.

"What you hear is what was played," said Korte, who cut and mixed the session into eight songs. "The sound that came from it was because there was a mutual understanding among the musicians."

The album, which is named for the date on which it was recorded, also acts as a document of Charmaine's birthday. She recalled that at one point, when everyone had left to go grab her cake, she worked alone on "V (HAPPY BIRTHDAY)," a short, ambient track that sits between the album's longer, more complex songs. "It was all about coming together and making music in that one moment," Charmaine said.

Korte and Charmaine are planning to do another one-day recording session again soon, perhaps with some returning musicians, but also new ones who will add different skills to the mix. Charmaine wants to continue the "dark, dreamy" vibe, but said she's open to playing with anyone.

The inaugural Drifting House members will reunite on May 23 for a house show with San Francisco shoegaze outfit Moonbell. To prepare for the live gig, Charmaine said they have scheduled one rehearsal — which will be the second time they've all ever played together — but will approach the show with the same spontaneous ethos they did in making *3.16.14*. "We'll just see what happens," she said. ■

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

**Show Details**

Drifting House plays the Of Dopehouse (1729 14th St. Oakland) on Friday, May 23. 8 p.m., $6.

# CLASSICALLY MODERN

Gutsy punk, futuristic R&B, and tortured grandeur

## Bikini Kill

The First Two Records

Kathleen Hanna is my four-year-old daughter's hero. Although her band Bikini Kill was only around for seven years and broke up seventeen years ago, it's arguably the most well known feminist rock group in history. The band emerged from the Olympia, Washington scene just a few years after Nirvana did, although it had considerably more punk cred. Its sound took the punk-rock activism of Crass and lent it a touch of Ramones pop. Bikini Kill's loud, brash self-titled debut EP — which is included, along with its 1993 album *Yeah Yeah Yeah Yeah*, on a just-released digital reissue titled *The First Two Records* — was produced by Ian MacKaye (Minor Threat, Fugazi) and cemented the riot grrrl movement as a force to be reckoned with.

BIKINI KILL

Neither Bikini Kill nor any of the female-fronted acts on the fringe of the Washington grunge explosion ever became MTV stars (or even wanted to) but tracks such as "Double Dare Ya," with its opening lyric *We're Bikini Kill and we want revolution* are as powerful as anything by Nineties male breakout bands Nirvana, Pearl Jam, and Soundgarden. And the reissued version of "Rebel Girl" is much more raw than the popular original.

*The First Two Records* juxtapose the rough spirit of 1977-era London with anti-misogynist lyrics. But unlike some Nineties bands that drew inspiration from the late Seventies, Bikini Kill sounds modern today and its honest, volatile take on the female experience is even more pregnant. Plus, Hanna has an unforgettable scream and wrote gutsy, meaningful poetry: she would've been a much better stand-in for Kurt Cobain at Nirvana's recent Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction than St. Vincent or Lorde. Do yourself a favor and make Bikini Kill a part of your rock collection. (Bikini Kill Records)

— *Adam Perry*

## Little Dragon

Nabuma Rubberband

On the surface, Little Dragon seems like another trendy group. The Swedish quartet cites Prince and Janet Jackson's slow jams as the primary influences on its latest album, and its music can rightfully be considered dreamy electro-pop. But during its fifteen-year career, the group has cultivated an undeniably distinct sound due to frontwoman Yukimi Nagano's eccentric, wide-ranging voice and the band's ability to craft clever, endlessly changing and surprising rhythms. Whereas its last album, 2011's *Ritual Union*, was bright and toe-tapping, the band's new album, *Nabuma Rubberband*, is all futuristic R&B — heady, sleek, and Sade-esque.

LITTLE DRAGON

Tense opener "Mirror" sets the tone: Over sparse, cavernous, throbbing drum beats and extremely dramatic pauses, Nagano sings with unflinching directness, her voice beckoning and sultry. On "Pretty Girls," lilting string instruments add to the melancholy. "Cat Rider" features a sparse drum machine beat that sounds like a fluttering heart, over which Nagano sings softly in a high-pitched-yet-smoky voice, *Stop playing with the one that you love.* There are also a few excellent upbeat, percussion-driven tracks, such as "Klapp Klapp." But even "Paris," which wouldn't sound out of place in a 1980s club, has a dark, slinky edge to its ticking hi-hats and funky bass line.

*Nabuma Rubberband* is perhaps Little Dragon's most confident — and sexiest — album to date. (Loma Vista)

— *Madeleine Key*

## Swans

To Be Kind

Swans, the musical entity under the direction of Michael Gira, was on hiatus for more than a decade. But after Gira's Angels of Light venture ended in 2009, he revived Swans in 2010. *To Be Kind* is the band's third studio album with its new lineup, which includes past members Norman Westberg and Christoph Hahn, in addition to Phil Puleo, Thor Harris, and Christopher Pravdica. *Kind* strides a middle ground between the pummeling, industrial style of Swans' early Eighties material and the more melodious, folk-tinged, richly textured approach of later albums *White Light From the Mouth of Infinity* and *The Burning World*.

Opener "Screen Shot" is driven by a loping blues motif that the band gradually embellishes and punctuates with noisy bleats while Gira, in his deep, slightly Jim Morrison-esque voice, makes declarations (demands?) of *love/breathe/here/now*. The 34-minute medley of "Bring the Sun" and "Toussaint L'Ouverture" begins with merciless repetition, but instead of the atonal grind of old, it's borne along with orchestral, almost symphonic grandeur, which alternates between Gira's sparse, almost hymn-like wailing and the sounds of neighing horses, until all strands merge into one. The cumulative effect is both exhausting and cathartic. "Some Things We Do" is a duet between Gira and Little Annie (aka Annie Anxiety), their velvety harmonies sounding like Sonny and Cher in hell as they coo a litany of human behavior while tortured strings wail behind them. *We hunt/we hurt/we seize ... we kill/we love, we love.* Yes, Gira's lyrics are as harrowing as ever — he's a worthy heir to the mantles of Morrison and Leonard Cohen. (Young God)

— *Mark Keresman*

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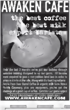
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# CONCERTS & CLUBS

## THURSDAY 15

## EAST BAY

### 18 Ages

**Keith Roberts** The pianist and vocalist [illegible] collaborates with local, national, and international guest artists for an evening of music from various genres. [illegible] Restaurant and [illegible]. 6-8 p.m. free

### Blues, Folk, & Country

**The G Rays** Ashkenaz, 9:15 p.m., $13

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**Dave Brown, Joe Lange, and [illegible]** [illegible] 8 p.m. $13

**[illegible] Wilson** Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m. $45

**Honey Moon Ball** [illegible] The Starts and [illegible]. 7 p.m., free

**Joel [illegible]** 2323 University Ave., 8 p.m., $10-$30

### Rock & Pop

**East City Saints** w/ [illegible], and [illegible]. The Uptown, 8 p.m. $8

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] and the Rock N Roll [illegible], [illegible] Teeth [illegible], and [illegible] Hospital. UC's Mile High Club. 8 p.m., $5-$10

**Honey Accent** w/ The Institution and City of Women. The Legionnaire Saloon, 8 p.m. $7

**The Lost [illegible]** Starry Plough, 5-8:00 p.m. free

**The Skinny Genes** w/ Mister Midnight, The Other Team, and [illegible]. 8 p.m. $5

### Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

**Dave Country Funk** live funk, soul, [illegible], and Latin music. Starry Plough. 8 p.m. free

**Bis Tone** w/ [illegible], Stephen Kent, and [illegible]. Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $21, $23

**[illegible]** [illegible], [illegible] and poets. 1 Fam, 8 p.m., free

### World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

**Los [illegible]** [illegible] 8 p.m. free

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Blues, Folk, & Country

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] and the [illegible] and the [illegible], Slim's, 8 p.m. $13

**[illegible]** w/ Midnight [illegible], [illegible] Social House, 8 p.m. free

**[illegible]** [illegible] Cafe, 8 p.m., free

**[illegible]** Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m. $18-$19

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] and friends, The Fillmore, 8 p.m. $29

**Stevie Ray Vaughan Tribute** [illegible] Slims, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., $20, $22

### Experimental & Avant-Garde

**[illegible]** [illegible] and video game [illegible] Lounge, 8 p.m., $10, $14

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**[illegible]** Madrone Art Bar 9 p.m. free

**Spencer Day** Hotel Nikko, 8 p.m., $40

**[illegible]** Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m., $10

### Rock & Pop

**Anti-Nowhere League** w/ TSOL, The Riverboat Gamblers, and [illegible] DNA Lounge 8 p.m. $18, $20

**Between Your Teeth** Tiny Oakland 8 p.m. $6

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible], Lion Pars, The Independent, 8 p.m., $18

**Bad Rabbits** w/ [illegible] and [illegible], The [illegible], 8 p.m., $12

**[illegible]** [illegible] Music Hall, 8 p.m. $26

**[illegible] Street Fair** [illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 p.m., $6

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] and [illegible], 8 p.m., $25

**[illegible] Trio** w/ [illegible], Hotel Utah, 8 p.m. $10

**Date Trilogy** w/ [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible], 9:30 p.m. $6

### Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

**Duly and the Leader** w/ The [illegible], 8 p.m. $7 $10

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] and [illegible], The Regency Ballroom 8 p.m. $26

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] and [illegible] of the Hill, 8 p.m., $10

### World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

**Afrolicious** w/ [illegible] and [illegible], 9:30 p.m. $5 before 10:30pm, $8 after

## FRIDAY 16

## EAST BAY

### Blues, Folk, & Country

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible], [illegible], 8 p.m., $7

**The Zydeco [illegible]** [illegible] Hall 8 p.m., $15

### Classical & Opera

**Oakland East Bay Symphony** presents [illegible] w/ the Oakland Symphony Chorus and Oakland Youth Orchestra, conducted by Michael Morgan. Paramount [illegible], 8 p.m. $20-$70

### Experimental & Avant-Garde

**[illegible]** [illegible], 8 p.m., $8

### Gospel & Vocal

**[illegible]** [illegible] St. Columba Catholic Church, 8 p.m. $20, $18 students

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**Al Marshall** Longitude, 9:30 p.m., free

**[illegible]** [illegible] 9:30 p.m. $10

**[illegible]** [illegible] Gallery 8:30 p.m., $15

**[illegible] Jazz Trio** [illegible], 6:30 p.m. free

**[illegible], and [illegible]** California Jazz Conservatory 7 p.m. $15

### Rock & Pop

**Bobby Love and the Sagebrush** The [illegible], 8 p.m. free

**[illegible]** [illegible] 8 p.m. free

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible], and [illegible], Oakland [illegible], 7 p.m. $12

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] and [illegible] Mile High Club, 7 p.m. $5-$10

**Hall of Ball** 2120 University Ave., 8 p.m., $10-$20

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] and the [illegible] and The [illegible], Starry Plough, 8 p.m. $6, $8-$12

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] Band, and [illegible], 8:00 p.m. $10 $12

### Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

**The 45 Sessions** [illegible] Soul Ensemble, DJ [illegible], and the 45 Sessions crew. The Legionnaire Saloon, 9 p.m. $5-$10

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible], [illegible] Theatre, and [illegible] 8 p.m. free and [illegible] $5

**Dave Lincoln** [illegible] 8 p.m., free

**People Under the Stairs** w/ [illegible] and [illegible], The New Parish 9 p.m. $17 $20

**[illegible] The Purple [illegible]** Geoffrey's Inner Circle, 7 p.m. $6

### World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

**[illegible]** [illegible] and Music [illegible] 8 p.m. $15-$18

**[illegible]** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $23, $25

**[illegible]** Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m. $29

**[illegible] Tango Ensemble** [illegible] 10 p.m., $10

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Blues, Folk, & Country

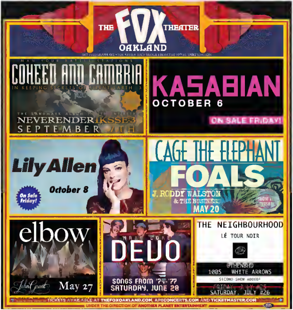
**The Earl Brothers** w/ The New Dollarson and Lonesome [illegible], Great American Music Hall 8 p.m. $16

**[illegible]** [illegible] Ristorante 8 p.m.-midnight, free

**[illegible]** w/ The [illegible] and [illegible], 8:30 p.m., $7-$10

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] of [illegible],

People Under the Stairs perform at The New Parish on 5/16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LIVE MUSIC: Shady Blaze, RJ V, Just Me,
C-Note & Ziggy, 9pm $7

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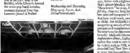
# PICKS

Kishi Bashi

## Failure

The trend of Nineties bands getting back together continues, but this reunion deserves your attention — Los Angeles alt rock band Failure, whose members recently reunited for the first time in sixteen years. The band never gained traction in the mainstream, and didn't have much support from its label; nonetheless, its distinctive lush, spacey, and heavy sound cultivated a devoted fan base whose continued (and growing) enthusiasm actually prompted the band to get back together, according to an interview with co-founder Greg Edwards on Radio.com. After the band's breakup in 1997, its members went on to have successful careers. Ken Andrews became a renowned producer and solo artist (ON, Year of the Rabbit), while Edwards formed the noise-pop band Autolux, customer guitarist Troy Van Leeuwen joined A Perfect Circle and, later, Queens of the Stone Age, and drummer Kellii Scott joined Shaker the Star, Veruca Salt, and Enemy. Failure recently came through town as the opener for Tool in March at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, and is back with two proper headlining shows at The Great American Music Hall (859 O'Farrell St., San Francisco). — *Kathleen Richards*

*Wednesday and Thursday, May 14-15, 8 p.m., $26. SlimsPresents.com*



Failure

Photo: Giant

## Kishi Bashi

Kishi Bashi is the pseudonym of classically trained violinist K Ishibashi, a former touring member of Of Montreal and Regina Spektor's band who makes wildly joyous, experimental pop music by looping violin — as well as his own bright, soaring voice — into a kaleidoscope of sound. Every song on his debut album, 2012's *151a*, brims with a lightness that's almost blinding. On "Manchester," he sings, *I haven't felt this alive in a long time*. In a less talented composer's hands, that lyric could easily come off as cliche. But Ishibashi's lofty songwriting sounds utterly genuine and complements the emotions he expresses lyrically. Ishibashi released his sophomore album, *Lighght*, earlier this week to rave reviews by outlets such as NPR, which awarded him "Best New Artist" in 2012. See him perform on Saturday at The Fillmore (1805 Geary Blvd., San Francisco). — *Madeleine Key*

*Saturday, May 17, 9 p.m., $19.50. TheFillmore.com*

# C&C

Rose Linh 8 p.m. $10
**Sapphire Shot** [illegible] Cafe 7 p.m., **The Strictly Bay Bluegrass Tribute** [illegible] 7:30 & 10 p.m. $19, $22
**Linda Jake and the Bluegrass Disciples** Plough and Stars 9 p.m. cover charge

### Classical & Opera

**San Francisco Symphony** [illegible] and [illegible] w/ [illegible] and Michael Tilson Thomas conducting, Davies Symphony Hall, 8 p.m., $15-$150

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**Square Market Jazz Orchestra** Top of the Mark, 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m. $10
[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m. $30-$45
**Josh Taylor and Friends** Rose Cafe, 7:30 p.m. free
**Spencer Day** Hotel Nikko, 8 p.m. $40

### Rock & Pop

**Goodly Rose** The Chapel, 8 p.m., $16
**Go Fly Orbiter** w/ [illegible] and [illegible] The Chapel, 8 p.m., $15
**Hed PE** w/ [illegible] and [illegible] DNA Lounge 8 p.m. $20 $18
**Bob Gamble** [illegible] Street Hall, 8 p.m. $15 $20
**NYPC** w/ Parade of Lights, [illegible] of the Woods, 8 p.m. $15 $18
**Red Fang** w/ Big Business and [illegible] Slim's, 8 p.m., $21
**Salad Vibes** w/ [illegible] and [illegible] Smith, Thee Parkside, 8 p.m., $17
**Say Hi** w/ Big Scary, [illegible], and DJ [illegible] Latino, Bottom of the Hill, 8:30 p.m. $12 $14
**Strange Talk** w/ The Hundred Days, [illegible] Sport, and [illegible], [illegible] Stop, 8 p.m. $13, $15
**Street Joy** w/ The [illegible] Smashers, [illegible] Rampage, and Summer Fiction, Milk Bar, 8 p.m., $6 $10
**Tainted Love** w/ [illegible], [illegible] 330 Club, 8 p.m., $25
**The Dollyrots** w/ The Shanghais, [illegible] Nelson [illegible] and [illegible], DNA Lounge 8:30 p.m. $10 $12
**Wardrobe Busted** w/ [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible] 8 p.m., $7

### Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

**Anderson .Paak and His Free Nationals** w/ [illegible] the Prize, and DJ [illegible], [illegible] 10 p.m. $10
[illegible] feat. [illegible] SFJAZZ Center 10:30 p.m. $20
[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Warfield 8 p.m. $30, $32
[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Independent, 9 p.m. $22, $25

## SATURDAY 17

# EAST BAY

### Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] w/ Laura Stolzen and [illegible] and The Lonesome [illegible], Starry Plough Cafe, 8 p.m. $7
**First Weekend Americana** w/ [illegible] Monty, Michael Lee Pruett, and [illegible] Subterranean Arthouse, 5 p.m. $12-$15
**Greg Gass** High Street Station Cafe, 7 p.m. $10
**Russell Dinan** The Rafts 8 p.m. free
**Lady Gamble** Tailpipe North, 2 p.m., free
**Lane Tietgen and Gary Stitton** Art House Gallery & Culture Center 8 p.m., $10, $20
**Rose St. Mary** Louisiana Street and Zydeco Rose Ashkenaz, 8 p.m., $10, $15 student
**The Station** Berkeley [illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $16, $18

### Classical & Opera

**Bay Area** [illegible] **Musicians Presents: A Musical Exploration** [illegible] [illegible] feat. Beethoven's Egmont Overture, Faure's Requiem and [illegible] Bay Area composer Stephen Whitehead, Saint Paul [illegible] Church, 7:30 p.m., $30, $35

### Experimental & Avant-Garde

**Steve Salamander Exhibit** w/ [illegible] 1980 Oakland Metro Operahouse, 8 p.m. $12
**Jim Ryan** Trio w/ Green [illegible], 1925 University Ave. 8 p.m. $10-$20
**Ross Gamble** w/ [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], [illegible] 10 p.m., $10

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**Aaron Kage Trio** Caffe Trieste, 7:30 p.m., free
**Marky White in The Jupiter** 5 p.m., free
**Jackie Ryan and Larry** [illegible]

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# C&C

Piano Company, 6 p.m., $20

**Jazz in the Ghetto/Hood and East Bay Center for the Performing Arts** Oakland Jazz: Marcus Shelby, Rummy Hall, Erik Jekabson, [illegible], Richmond Jazz Collective, Sound of Reason, Kenny Washington, Jazz Jazz in the Neighborhood Big Band East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., suggested $10 donation

**Jennifer Jazz Jazz: the Ever-Expanding Universe** Berkeley Jazz Conservatory, 8 p.m., $20

**Larry Douglas Jazz [illegible]** 25th Street Gallery, 6:30 p.m., $15

### Rock & Pop

**Highway 10** Monaghans on the Hill, 7 p.m., free

**[illegible]** w/ Pablo Tody and Just Justina, 1-2-3-4 Go! Oakland 7 p.m., $10

**[illegible]** w/ Marty O'Reilly and the Old Soul Orchestra, Starry Plough 8 p.m. $8-$12

**[illegible]** w/ Backyard Mortuary and [illegible], Eli's Mile High Club 7 p.m., $8-$10

**[illegible]** w/ Hands of Time, Stork Club, 9 p.m., $6

**Two Gallants** w/ Magnolia, The New Parish, 9 p.m., $20, $23

### Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

**[illegible]** Yoshi's Oakland 7:30 & 9:30 p.m. $17-$44

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible], Stork Club, 7:30 p.m., $6

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible], The Legionnaire Saloon, 9 p.m., $7

### World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

**Classical Persian Music Night** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $22-$24

**Middle Eastern Music and Dance** [illegible], 7 p.m., free

**[illegible] Night** feat. Caleb Ford Jazz Dance Band, Ivy Room 10 p.m. $5

**Rumba Flamenco** Berkeley 9:30 p.m., $15

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Blues, Folk, & Country

**[illegible]** w/ The Angels and [illegible], 9 p.m., $7

**[illegible] and [illegible]** Adobe Cafe, 4 p.m., free

**[illegible]** Plough and Stars, 5 p.m., cover charge

**[illegible]** w/ Mree, Brick & Mortar Music Hall 7:30 p.m., $13, $15

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible], 8 p.m., $6

**Larry Smith and [illegible]** 7:30 & 10 p.m., $22

**[illegible]** folk dance with [illegible], 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., free

**Sing Out of Darkness** feat. [illegible], 7 p.m., free

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible], 9 p.m., $15

### Classical & Opera

**San Francisco Symphony** performs Sibelius, Bartók, and Beethoven; [illegible]; Michael Tilson Thomas conducting, Davies Symphony Hall, 5 p.m. $35-$152

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**Cassandra Wilson** Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m. $38-$45

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] and Marcus Miller SFJAZZ Center 7:30 p.m., $50-$125

**[illegible]** 7 p.m. $40

### Rock & Pop

**A Brave Forest** w/ Phil Manley's Life Coach, [illegible], The Chapel, 8 p.m. $15

**Architects** w/ [illegible] The Mighty [illegible], 7:30 p.m. $15

**The Point of the Day** [illegible], Top of the Mark, 9-12:30 a.m. $10

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible], The Independent, 8 p.m., $25

**[illegible]** The Chapel, 8:30 p.m., free

**[illegible]** w/ Plume Giant, The Fillmore, 8 p.m. $18.50

**Liquid Sky** 50 Mason Social House, 10 p.m., free

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible], and DJ Al Lover, Brick & Mortar Music Hall 8:30 p.m. [illegible]

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible], 4 p.m., free

**Peter and the Test Tube Babies** w/ The Generators and [illegible], 9 p.m. $15

**[illegible]** The Younger Lovers w/ [illegible], 8 p.m. $15

**Twisted Love** w/ [illegible], 8 p.m. $25

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] Theory, Amnesia 6:30 p.m. $7-$10

**The Y Axes** w/ [illegible], 8 p.m., $8

### Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

**[illegible]** w/ Sure Fire Soul Ensemble, Boom Boom Room 9:30 p.m. $10

**Lindsey Stirling** w/ [illegible], The Warfield, 8 p.m. $30, $32

## SUNDAY 18

## EAST BAY

### Blues, Folk, & Country

**[illegible]** Stork Club 1 p.m., free

**The [illegible]** Freight & Salvage Coffee-

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**924 Gilman** 924 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510-525-9926
**[illegible]** [illegible] San Pablo Ave., Oakland 510-601-8090
**Air Lounge** 492 9th St., Lower Patio, Oakland, 510-444-2177
**Albatross Pub** 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-843-2473
**The Alley** 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-444-8505
**Amoeba Music** 2455 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-549-1125
**Art Room Gallery & Cultural Center** [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-472-3170
**Ashkenaz** 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5054
**[illegible] Cafe** 1429 Broadway, Oakland 510-863-1440
**The Baltic** 135 Park Pl., Point Richmond 510-237-1000
**[illegible]** [illegible] 17th St., Oakland, 510-444-2896
**[illegible] Center for the Arts** 1601 Lincoln St. Alameda 510-523-6957
**[illegible]** 5621 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-788-7711
**[illegible]** 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-548-8888
**Club 21** 2111 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-268-9425
**[illegible]** 3903 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4024
**Conga Lounge** 5422 College Ave., Oakland 510-463-2681
**The Continental Club** 1658 12th St., Oakland 510-673-8863
**Craneway Pavilion** 1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond, 510-215-6000
**[illegible]** 468 19th St., Oakland, 510-830-0174
**[illegible] Hall** 2305 Alameda Ave., Alameda, 415-285-8000
**Eli's Mile High Club** 3629 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland 510-594-9600
**Era Art Bar and Lounge** 19 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-832-4400
**First Congregational Church** 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley 510-848-3696
**Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge** 1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda 510-749-0332
**Fox Theater** 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 800-745-3000
**Freight & Salvage** 2020 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-644-2020
**The Greek Theatre** 2001 Gayley Rd., Berkeley, 510-642-9988
**Hertz Hall** UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.) Berkeley 510-642-9988
**High Street Station** 1303 High St., Alameda 510-995-8149
**Island [illegible]** 1436 Oakland St., Alameda, 510-865-3328
**Ivy Room** 860 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-5888
**Jazzschool** 2087 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-845-5373
**Jewish Community Center of the East Bay** 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, 510-848-0237
**John Patrick's** 1913 Park St., Alameda, 510-523-4108
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**[illegible]** 2439 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley 510-548-4340
**La Peña Cultural Center** 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-849-2568
**Laney College Theatre** 900 Fallon St., Oakland 510-464-3540
**The Layover** 1517 Franklin St., Oakland 510-834-1517
**The Legionnaire Saloon** 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland
**Lounge 3411** 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland 510-531-3411
**Luka's Taproom & Lounge** 2221 Broadway, Oakland 510-451-4677
**Merchant's Saloon** 401 2nd St., Oakland, 510-465-8032
**[illegible] Lounge** 5900 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland 510-430-0255
**Missouri Lounge** 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2080
**New Karibbean City** 1408 Webster St., Oakland 510-251-0700
**The New Parish** 579 18th St., Oakland, 510-444-7474
**The Night Light** 311 Broadway, Oakland, 510-788-9413
**Oakland Metro Operahouse** 630 3rd St., Oakland, 510-763-1146
**Oracle Arena** 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland 510-569-2121
**Paramount Theatre** 2025 Broadway, Oakland 510-465-6400
**[illegible]** 311 Washington St., Oakland, 510-238-8108
**Piedmont Piano Company** 1728 San Pablo Ave., Oakland 510-547-8188
**Quinn's Lighthouse** 1951 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland, 510-536-2050
**Radio** 435 13th St., Oakland, 510-451-2889
**[illegible] Room** 1544 Broadway, Oakland, 510-575-8153
**Rhythmix Cultural Works** 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda 510-865-5060
**The [illegible]** 3140 San Pablo Ave., Oakland
**[illegible]** 1700 [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-337-9130
**Ruby Room** 132 14th St., Oakland, 510-444-7224
**[illegible]** 248 13th St., Oakland 510-836-1809
**Sleep Train Pavilion** 2000 Kirker Pass Rd., Concord 925-676-8742
**The Sound Room** 2147 Broadway, Oakland 510-496-4190
**Speisekammer** 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-522-1300
**Starry Plough** 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-841-2082
**Stork Club** 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-6174
**Studio Grand** 3234 Grand Ave., Oakland
**Subterranean Art House** 2179 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-990-2261
**Uptown** 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-8100
**[illegible] at Venue** 420 14th St., Oakland 510-379-8954
**White Horse Inn** 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3820
**Yoshi's** 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200
**Zellerbach Hall** UC Berkeley, Berkeley 510-642-9988

[illegible] 6 p.m., $10 [illegible]

[illegible] 7 p.m., $10-$34

**Sunday [illegible]** [illegible] 12 p.m. [illegible]

[illegible] 1 p.m. [illegible]

### Classical & Opera

**Youth Concerts Festival** [illegible] young musicians performing on piano and violin w/ [illegible] 3 p.m., $10 adults, $7 children/[illegible]

### Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] 4 p.m., $10-$30

### Gospel & Vocal

[illegible] 1 p.m. [illegible]

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] 7 p.m., $10

[illegible] 2 p.m., $20

**Jazz on Fourth** [illegible] Fourth St. [illegible]

**Jazz and [illegible] Night** [illegible]

**Jazz at the Chapel** [illegible] 2 p.m., $15, $20 [illegible]

[illegible] 4:30 p.m., $10, $15

[illegible] 3-6 p.m. [illegible]

[illegible] 5 p.m., $10

[illegible] Sunday Jazz Concert and Jazz Session [illegible] 6 p.m., $1

### Kids

[illegible] 3 p.m., $6 adults, $4 kids

### Rock & Pop

[illegible] 9 p.m., $6-$10

[illegible]

Church, [illegible] and a burlesque performance by [illegible] 6 p.m., $10

[illegible] 7 p.m., $7

[illegible] 3 p.m., free

[illegible] The Fireside Lounge 9 p.m., free

[illegible] 6 p.m., $10

### Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Yoshi's Oakland, 7 p.m., $17-$49

[illegible] Lounge, 9 p.m., free

### World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible] 7 p.m., $10-$20

[illegible] The Sound Room, 6 p.m., $15

[illegible] 3 p.m., free

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $7

[illegible] 8:30 p.m., $15

[illegible]

[illegible] 9 p.m., free

### Classical & Opera

[illegible] Symphony Hall, 2 p.m., $15-$160

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] Project [illegible] 7 p.m., $15, $18

[illegible] SFJAZZ Center, 3 & 7 p.m., $50-$120

**Jazz in the Neighborhood** [illegible]

[illegible] Community Music Center, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., suggested $10 donation

**Sunday [illegible]** [illegible] 8:30 p.m., free

[illegible] 7 p.m., $10

### Rock & Pop

[illegible] 8:30 p.m., $6

[illegible] 4 p.m., $5

### Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] 9 p.m., $10

[illegible] 9 p.m., $20, $25

[illegible] Street Room, 9 p.m., free

**The Slippery Slope** [illegible] 9 p.m., $10

[illegible] 9 p.m., $8

## MONDAY 19

## EAST BAY

### Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] 8 p.m., sold out

[illegible] 7:30 p.m., $7-$9

### Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] 8 p.m., $10

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] Lounge, 6 p.m., free

[illegible] Yoshi's Oakland, 7 & 9 p.m., $15

### Rock & Pop

[illegible] 9 p.m., $7

[illegible] 8 p.m., $8-$12

### Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] 8 p.m., free

## VENUE DIRECTORY

## SAN FRANCISCO

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TAB BENOIT
CHRIS COBB BAND, [illegible]

FRI 5/16
NEW MONSOON

SAT 5/17
GABRIELLE APLIN

THU 5/22
BLACK FLAG
[illegible]
VIOLENCE CREEPS

SAT 5/24
VERY BE CAREFUL
BOMBERAS DE LA BAHIA
[illegible]

SUN 5/25
RICO PABON
[illegible]

TUE 5/27
MESCHIYA LAKE & THE LITTLE BIG HORNS
[illegible]

UPCOMING SHOWS

THE NEW PARISH

SATURDAY 5/17
TWO GALLANTS

FRIDAY 5/16
PEOPLE UNDER THE STAIRS

WEDNESDAY 5/21
HALLELUJAH THE HILLS

FRIDAY 5/23
BLACK FLAG

THURSDAY 5/29
OJO DE BUEY

SATURDAY 5/24
RAYVEN JUSTICE

TUESDAY 6/03
CYHI THE PRYNCE

THURSDAY 5/22
THE FAMILY CREST

FRIDAY 6/13
LOS AMIGOS INVISIBLES

KING OF KINGS

CHAD VANGAALEN

SATURDAY 6/21
UN DUN HER

THURSDAY 6/05 & FRIDAY 6/06
HONEYDROP HOMETOWN THROWDOWN

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The 10th Annual Stomp the Stumps!
Fri 5/16 8:30 pm Benefit
Mark St. Mary
Zydeco
Orange Sherbet
Sun 5/18 5:30 pm Benefit
Bishop O'Dowd High School Jazz Band End of the Year Blowout
Tue 5/20 8:30 pm Cajun/Zydeco
Andrew Carriere & the Zydeco/Cajun Allstars
BERKELEY'S HOME FOR WORLD MUSIC AND DANCE SINCE 1973
1317 San Pablo (at Gilman)
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Wed May 14
No Doubt: The Murder(s) of Oscar Grant (in the Lounge)
Tue May 20 6:30 pm | Free
Amaranto Revolutionary Film Series: El Violin (in the Lounge)
Tue May 20 7pm | $10-$20, Free for REALM kids
Realm Academy: music, spoken word and theater
Fri May 23
A Hot Night In Old Havana – Tito y Su Son De Cuba + Cuban & Peruvian pop-up @ 6pm in the lounge
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# C&C

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Blues, Folk, & Country

**Jack Jorger** Blues • Cafe, 2 p.m., free

**The Sad Bastards** Blues Ole Make-Out Blues, 7:30 p.m., free

### Classical & Opera

**San Francisco Symphony** Madness Don Folders w/ Hosen Cabrete conducting, Davies Symphony Hall, 7:30 p.m., $50-$130

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**Kids Blues, The Barbed** Biscuits & Blues, 7:30 p.m., $12

### Rock & Pop

**The Cave Singers** w/ Frieds and the Arrow, Slabshow Shop, 8 p.m., $15

**Chelsea Fool** w/ Birdy, The Fillmore, 8 p.m., $25

**Plant** w/ Thrones, Elbo Room, 9 p.m., $14-$18

**Stephen Stills** Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $79

## TUESDAY 20

## EAST BAY

### Blues, Folk, & Country

**Andrew Carriere and the Zydeco/Cajun Allstars** Ashkenaz, 8:30 p.m., $12

**Folkslyrics feat. Dean, Upon, Paul, and Marlon**, Blissful Cafe, 7 p.m., free

### Gospel & Vocal

**Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir** Jazz Goes Beyond The Marsh Arts Center, 8 p.m., $12-$30

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**6th Annual Mensch Concert** w/ JCC East Bay Club Red John Schott Hot Mo Yo, Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, Berkeley Branch, 7:30 p.m.

**Ted Dibble** dinner jazz with guest Marlon, singers, The Alley, 9 p.m., free

**Stephen Roefort Jr. Group**, 8 p.m., free

### Rock & Pop

**Foals** w/ Cage the Elephant and J. Roddy Walston and the Business, The Fox Theater, 7:30 p.m., $65

**Joe Thrilow**/ Animals and Serpents of Blues, The Uptown, 9 p.m., $10, $12

**Blues Dialectics** w/ Reveal, Fame Coffin and Ten Engines, Eli's Mile High Club, 9 p.m., $6-$10

**Stephen Stills** Yoshi's Oakland, 9 p.m., $79

### Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

**The Get Down** w/ DJ Tyrone and eight different lyricists/groups, Ivy Room, 9 p.m., free

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Blues, Folk, & Country

**Shannon Bryant** Bazaar Cafe, 7 p.m., free

**Bonn, Magic** Madrone Art Bar, 10 & 11:30 p.m., free

**The Good Fellows** Madrone Art Bar, 7 p.m., free

**Damien Jurado** w/ Jessica Hoffman, The Independent, 8 p.m., $15, $18

**David Tankersley** w/ Hello Echo and Blues, Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $10

**Kelly McFarling** w/ Slow Blues and Hill, Amnesia, 9 p.m., $7-$10

**Nathaniel Rateliff** w/ Dennis Haynes and Curly Ritter, The Chapel, 9 p.m., $13-$15

**Ron Thompson and the Resistors** Biscuits & Blues, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., $15

### Experimental & Avant-Garde

**El Hardwick** Resolution Gale, 8:30 p.m., free

A Minor Forest plays at The Chapel on 5/16.

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**The Tommy Igoe Big Band** Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $22

### Rock & Pop

**Ralph Tribal Brothers** Music, 9 p.m., free

**FUXXX** w/ 13 Scars, Killer of Sheep, Ha Ha Bravo and DJ Agitator, The Amnesia, 9:30 p.m., $7

**Snappy Drop** w/ Midnight Sons and Bull Tremoli, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m., $8

**Hallelujah the Hills** w/ H&K and The Bound to Perish, Hemlock Tavern, 8:30 p.m., $7

**The Unlikely Candidates** w/ Picture Parade and Tyler on the Shore, Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $12

**27 Unlimited** w/ Loose Interpretations, 50 Mason Social House, 9 p.m., free

## WEDNESDAY 21

## EAST BAY

### Blues, Folk, & Country

**Celebrating Songbirds** feat. Donn, Hank and Coleman, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $20, $22

**Mark Hummel and the Blues Survivors** Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $22

**Live Traditional Duo Music** in white flats, concertina w/ Deven Mark, vocals, and Harbinda w/ Grasshoppers / Nick Edwards, The Legionnaire Saloon, 9:30 p.m., free

**Brooklyn Brothers** Albatross Pub, 9 p.m., free

### Experimental & Avant-Garde

**6th Chuck Baiardi** w/ Bee 18, 2120 University Ave., 8 p.m., $10-$20

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**Barbara** Awaken Cafe, 8 p.m., free

**Randy Craig and Friends** The Marsh Arts Center, 7 p.m., free

### Rock & Pop

**Yoshi Strawberry** The Uptown, 9 p.m., free

**Hallelujah the Hills** w/ Seconds Gon, Gary Little Friends and Dwellings, The New Parish, 9 p.m., $7-$10

**Sta Alton and Slam** Hotel Ashkenaz, 8 p.m., $12

### Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

**On the Spot** The Jupiter, 9 p.m., free

### World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

**Caribbean Night** w/ Reggae Fresh and DJ Bonafide, Tommy's Ladies, 7-11 p.m., free

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Blues, Folk, & Country

**Ben Miller and the Bad Links** SFJAZZ Center, 7:30 p.m., $35-$45

**Martin** The Chapel, 8:30 p.m., free

**Zoë Baltutis** w/ Slow Tape and Tayla Lynn and the Retro Hands, Hotel Utah, 9 p.m., $10

**Michael Malloy** Plough and Stars, 9 p.m., free

**Tony Savarino** Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 p.m., free

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**Djembe** Amnesia, 8 p.m., free

**Eric Garland's Duo Session** Amnesia, 10 p.m., free

**Gon** w/ Dayology, 11 Ria, 9 p.m., $6-$10

**Jane Monheit sings Judy Garland** Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $25-$37

**Unbound Sextet** plays Monette Jazz Room, Top of the Mark, 9:30-11:30 p.m., $6

**The Amnesiacs** Amnesia, 8 p.m., free

### Rock & Pop

**Barbie** w/ Young Fathers and P. Morris, The Independent, 8 p.m., $18, $20

**Bounding Gunfire** w/ Mr. Third Eye Blind, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 8 p.m., $7, $10

**Hungry Skinny** w/ Blonde Widows and The Quiet Men, Milk Bar, 8 p.m., free w/ RSVP, $5

**Lonelier Ships** w/ Inhale, Scott Arthur, and The Josh Cheers Crankshaft, and Unit 77, the Tower, 8 p.m., $15, $18

**Zasesu** w/ Cold State and Monsters, Hemlock Tavern, 8:30 p.m., $6

**Pudding Lights** w/ Mister Lies and Push the Feelings On, Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $12

**Princess** The Stephen Ballroom, 8 p.m., $45, $60

**Qaleb Kept** w/ Never Music and Wholesome Bang, 50 Mason Social House, 9 p.m., free

**Thick/They're/There** w/ Creatures Alight and The Glass House, Time Parlor, 9 p.m., $10

### Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

**Joey Leach** w/ Saint Papo and Sara Bel, Boundless the Hill, 8 p.m., $12, $14

**Ladies** w/ Robert Glasper Experiment, The Warfield, 8 p.m., $36-$55

**Bass Train** Boom Boom Room, 9:30 p.m., $5

*Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.*

# DJ & DANCE

## THURSDAY 15

### EAST BAY

**Groove Bats: Thursday Break Nights** w/ DJ [illegible] and Luis K spinning samba, soul, [illegible], hip-hop, and Krautrock, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m. [illegible]

**Deep** [illegible] Lounge [illegible], 9 p.m., and

**DJ Lady** [illegible] Jupiter, 9 p.m., and

**DJ** [illegible] The Layover, 9 p.m., free

**DJ Night** [illegible] pop, mind-blowing rock, and urban hip-hop, Ely's Restaurant, 8:30 p.m., and

**Groove** [illegible] w/ resident [illegible] the Vinyl Archaeologist and guest DJs, Vinyl at Venue Oakland, 10 p.m. and before 11 p.m., $5 after

**The** [illegible] w/ [illegible] spinning [illegible] Club 21, 9 p.m., $5-$15

**Lyrics Lee** reggae, dancehall, and bass, The Layover, 10 p.m., and

**Sol Stack** w/ [illegible] and Mr. Lucky spinning [illegible] The Layover, 10 p.m., and

**Re-Edits** w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B, house, and Afrobeat, Era Art Bar and Lounge, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] White Horse Inn, 10 p.m.-midnight, free

**Ultra** [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible] Tre, and Willie Maze, Somar Bar & Lounge, 9:30 p.m., $TBA

### SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] **Thursdays** w/ DJs [illegible] and Mr. [illegible] spinning [illegible], pop rock, and one-off resident [illegible], 9 p.m., and before 9:30 p.m., $5

[illegible] LGBT [illegible] celebration party [illegible], 10 p.m., and

**Groove** [illegible] of the Hip-Hop, 9 p.m., and

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Monarch, 9:30 p.m., $10

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], 10 p.m., free

**Pour It's** [illegible] [illegible] Rot Room, 10 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Monarch, 9:30 p.m., $10

**Turn In Turn Up** w/ Johnny K, [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], [illegible], Arthur Fuller and [illegible], Temple, 10 p.m., $5

## FRIDAY 16

### EAST BAY

**DJ** [illegible] **Happy Hour Music** [illegible] Karibbean City, 4 p.m.

**DJ Night** [illegible] pop, mind-blowing rock, and urban hip-hop, Ely's Restaurant, 8:30 p.m., free

**DJ Willie Maze** Somar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

**Fleckerl** w/ DJ [illegible] spinning post-punk, darkwave, synth-pop, dancehall, and more, The Three Fifty-Five, 10 p.m., and

**Friday Night Salon** w/ guest DJs spinning [illegible], La Estrellita Cafe, 10 p.m., $5

**The** [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] and [illegible] spinning soul, hip-hop, funk, disco, electronic, and [illegible], The [illegible], Hoody, 10 p.m., free

**Hip-Hop Dance Music** w/ [illegible], Club 1220, 9 p.m., $5

**The** [illegible] hip-hop DJs, Jupiter, 10 p.m., free

**Old-School** hip-hop and funk, Radio, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning soulful [illegible] and dance, [illegible], 9 p.m., $5

[illegible] Tales [illegible], [illegible] and reggae, [illegible], 9 p.m., $5

**Rhythm** [illegible] **Dance Hour** w/ DJ Greg [illegible], The Legionnaire Saloon, 9:30 p.m., free

[illegible] **and Knockout**, The Layover, 9 p.m., and

**Boom** [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning EDM, electro-pop, and hip-hop, and live percussion, [illegible], 9 p.m., $5

**Simply** [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] and DJ [illegible], Somar Bar & Lounge, 10 p.m., $5 after 11 p.m.

**The Shift** w/ DJ [illegible], The Layover, 9 p.m.

**Soul Sessions** w/ DJ [illegible] of [illegible] and DJ [illegible], Era Art Bar and Lounge, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible], [illegible] Bar & Lounge, 9:30 p.m., $5 after 11 p.m.

**World Beat Fridays** w/ DJ Tosh spinning [illegible], samba, salsa, merengue, dancehall reggae, [illegible], and more, Conga Lounge, 10 p.m.

### SAN FRANCISCO

**DJ** [illegible] Edinburgh Castle, 10 p.m., and

**DJ** [illegible] w/ [illegible], Public Works, 9:30 p.m., $15

**DJ The** [illegible] w/ DJ Joey [illegible], Dawn's, 9 p.m., free

**DJs** [illegible] and [illegible], DJ [illegible], 9 p.m., and

**For** [illegible] The Cellar, 10 p.m., [illegible]

**Friday** [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, salsa, [illegible] and world w/ grooves by guest bands, El Rio, 10 p.m., and

**Hello Tight** w/ DJs [illegible], Jerry [illegible] and [illegible], Amnesia, 10 p.m.

**Joos** [illegible] w/ [illegible] Valley, [illegible], and [illegible], Monarch, 9:30 p.m., $5

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], DJ [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible], 10 p.m., $15, $20

[illegible] w/ [illegible] K and Jenny [illegible], [illegible], 10 p.m., $10

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] and hip-hop, Make-Out Room, 10 p.m., $5

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], and The [illegible], Mezzanine, 9 p.m., $15, $20

**Night of the** [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] spinning early rock 'n' roll and honkin' [illegible], The Knockout, 10 p.m., $5

**Paris Dance International** w/ DJs [illegible] and [illegible] spinning reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, soul, and R&B, Little Gabans,

9 p.m., $5

**Pour** [illegible] DJs, The Cellar, 10 p.m., $10

**Tell All Your** [illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], and pop-punk [illegible] of DJs [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible] of the Hip-Hop, 9 p.m., free

**That** [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] and guests [illegible], Madrone Art Bar, 9 p.m., $5 after 9 p.m.

[illegible] feat. [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], and more, 1015 Folsom Nightclub, 10 p.m., $20

## SATURDAY 17

### EAST BAY

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] and [illegible] spinning [illegible], hip-hop, [illegible], and [illegible], 9 p.m., $5, $7

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] and [illegible] spinning hip-hop and R&B, before and DJs, 9 p.m., $5 before 10 p.m.

**DJ** [illegible], [illegible] Locker, 9 p.m., and

**DJ Night** [illegible] pop, mind-blowing rock, and urban hip-hop, Ely's Restaurant, 8:30 p.m., and

**The Lounging Garden** w/ DJs [illegible] and [illegible] spinning new wave, [illegible], and synth pop, The Night Light, 9 p.m., $5

**Happy Hours** w/ DJ [illegible] spinning punk, rock, indie, and noise rock, The Missouri Lounge, 9-10 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible], The Legionnaire Saloon, 9 p.m., free

**Lookout** [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] and [illegible] of the [illegible], and [illegible] the [illegible] pop, hip-hop, R&B, and more, [illegible] Three [illegible], 10 p.m., and

**Magic** [illegible] w/ [illegible] and guests spinning [illegible], Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., and

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning R&B, hip-hop, and soul, Era Art Bar and Lounge, 9 p.m., free

**Reggae Night** w/ DJ Hip-hop Island Paradise Club, 9 p.m., $10

**Reggae &** [illegible] Conga Lounge, 10 p.m., and

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] and [illegible], The Layover, 9 p.m., and

**Single and Mingle Ping Pong Party** w/ DJ Purple, The Uptown, 9 p.m., $5

[illegible] **Saturdays** w/ rotating DJs spinning [illegible] hip-hop, [illegible], and world, Jupiter, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $5 before 10 p.m., $10 after

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning Top 40 and [illegible], [illegible], 9 p.m., $TBA

**The Gym** w/ DJs Young [illegible] and [illegible] spinning reggae, [illegible], hip-hop, and Latin, Karibbean City, 10 p.m., and [illegible] 11:30 p.m., $20

**Vinyl** [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning punk, dancehall, synth punk, and Eighties punk, [illegible] Room, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Bootie SF** [illegible] night, DNA Lounge, 9 p.m., $15, $20

**The** [illegible], The Knockout, 10 p.m., $5

**DJ Forest Jaded** [illegible] and [illegible] and pleasant hip-hop, international [illegible], and the [illegible], El Rio, 3-10

p.m., and

**DJ** [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible], Dawn's, 9 p.m., and

**DJ Max Temple**, 10 p.m., $20

**DJ** [illegible] w/ DJs spinning Groove reggaeton, salsa, dancehall, and [illegible] dance-pop, Make-Out Room, 10 p.m., $5

**Fort** [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible], [illegible], Monarch, 9 p.m., $5 [illegible] 10 p.m., $15

[illegible] **Party** w/ [illegible] K and [illegible] spinning [illegible] rock, Madrone Art Bar, 9 p.m., $5 after 10 p.m.

[illegible] feat. [illegible], [illegible] Shop, 9:30 p.m., $5-$25

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] and [illegible] spinning hip-hop, soul, funk, and reggae, [illegible], 9 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible] and hip-hop, Public Works, 9 p.m., $15, $20

[illegible], **Jazz with** [illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], 9 p.m., $20

[illegible] **International** w/ DJs [illegible] and [illegible] spinning reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, soul, and R&B, Little Gabans, 9 p.m., $5

[illegible] **Saturdays** w/ Bay Area Latin DJs, 1015 Folsom Nightclub, 10 p.m., $10 [illegible] 10:30 p.m., $20 after

[illegible] (DJ Set) w/ [illegible], DJ [illegible] and [illegible] Dusty before [illegible], 9 p.m., and

[illegible] **Night Soul Party** w/ DJs Lucky, Paul Paul, and [illegible] spinning [illegible], [illegible], 10 p.m., $5-$10

[illegible] spinning [illegible], Top 40, old-school funk, R&B, [illegible], and dancehall, 111 Minna Street Gallery, 10 p.m., and

**The Slow** w/ [illegible], [illegible], John Early, 9 guests spinning house, [illegible], The EndUp, 10 p.m., $TBA

## SUNDAY 18

### EAST BAY

[illegible] by [illegible], 4 p.m., and

**King of Kings Reggae Sundays** w/ DJs [illegible], Young [illegible] and [illegible] spinning [illegible] dancehall and roots rock, The [illegible], 10 p.m.

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] w/ Sandy [illegible], Somar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., and

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Day In Madness Party** w/ The DJs [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], $8

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible], 9 p.m., $10, $20

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible], 9 p.m., $5, $8

[illegible] Sundays The Cellar, 10 p.m., $TBA

**Sunday** [illegible] The hip-hop, 10 p.m., $5 after 11 p.m.

**Sunday T-Dance** w/ DJs Adrian, [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], John Early, and more, The EndUp, 9

a.m.-5 p.m., $10

[illegible] party w/ [illegible] grooves, The Knockout, 10 p.m., and

## MONDAY 19

### EAST BAY

**Mixtures on Mondays** w/ [illegible] and [illegible], The Legionnaire Saloon, 9 p.m., free

**Underground Lounge** psycho [illegible] and [illegible] music, [illegible], 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

**Whose** [illegible]? Hip-hop [illegible], R&B, power pop nuggets, punk [illegible], [illegible], and more, The Three Fifty-Five, 10 p.m., free

### SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ [illegible] DJs spinning [illegible], [illegible], noise, ambient, and weird stuff, DNA Lounge, 9:30 p.m., $3, $8

[illegible] **Mondays** w/ Hip-hop guest DJs, Monarch, 10 p.m., and

**Mixtures on Mondays** w/ DJ [illegible], [illegible], The Captain and [illegible] spinning [illegible], Madrone Art Bar, 9 p.m., $3 after 9 p.m.

[illegible] w/ DJs Mr. Lucky and [illegible] spinning soca, dub, dancehall, and reggae, Gabans, 10 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] and [illegible], Make-Out Room, 10 p.m., and

## TUESDAY 20

### EAST BAY

**Artist Lounge Dance:** dancehall, reggae, funky and [illegible] fresh w/ DJ Questions, [illegible], and [illegible], Era Art Bar and Lounge, 7 p.m., and

**Lovin' Gee** [illegible] dancehall, and dub, The Layover, 10 p.m., free

[illegible] **and** [illegible] Somar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

**Turnup Tuesdays** w/ DJ [illegible], Van Kleef, 9 p.m., free

**Vinyls** [illegible] (Vintage Art and Music for the People) [illegible] selections from [illegible], Artists Groove Bar, Room Fifty-Five, 9 p.m., and

### SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ The [illegible] and [illegible] spinning reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, and groove, [illegible], 10 p.m., $5

**DJ** [illegible] Make-Out Room, 9:30 p.m., free

**Lost and Found: Jump and Dance** [illegible] w/ DJs Lucky, [illegible], and [illegible], Make-Out Room, 9:30 p.m., free

[illegible] drum 'n' bass, Underground SF, 9 p.m., $5

[illegible] w/ resident DJs [illegible] and [illegible], Gabans, 9 p.m., $7

# PICK

## Flashback '90s Old-School Rave

If you long to experience what it was like to attend an underground rave in the early Nineties (or have major nostalgia for doing so), head to Monarch (101 Sixth St., San Francisco) next Wednesday, when DJs Method One, Pietrus, Mozy and Ben Depley will spin early Nineties electronic music, including hard-core techno, roots, jungle, drum 'n' bass, and house. Event promoters are explicit: The emphasis will be on the rave side of the Nineties. In keeping with the ethos of the event, the DJs will also showcase their massive record collections. It's all vinyl, all night. *— Madeleine Key*

*Wednesday, May 21, 9 p.m., $5, $10. MonarchSF.com*

**Tree Roots** w/ [illegible] The Vinyl Archaeologist spinning classics from hip-hop's golden era, Gabans, 10 p.m., and

## WEDNESDAY 21

### EAST BAY

**DJ Willie Maze** dancehall, The Night Light, 9 p.m., and

**The Off Hour** [illegible] funk and electronica, disco, Latin, African, and more, Vinyl at Venue Oakland, 6-10 p.m., $12

**The Jet Set** w/ DJ [illegible] and [illegible], Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., and

[illegible] w/ DJ Fee Dog, The Layover, 9 p.m., and

**Reggae** [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] and guests, The Legionnaire Saloon, 9 p.m., and

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning everything from disco to punk rock from the Fifties through the Nineties, [illegible]'s [illegible], 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning house, old [illegible], hip-hop, and Latin [illegible], [illegible] 9 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible], [illegible] Bar & Lounge, 10 p.m., and

[illegible], [illegible] of art, [illegible], [illegible], and beat, Era Art Bar and [illegible], 9 p.m., $5 ■

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SAVAGE LOVE

# HOOKUP SHOOK UP

Defining consent and embracing kinks.

By Dan Savage

*I'm a 21-year-old straight male, and I'm mildly autistic. This means that I have difficulty picking up on social cues. I've learned to manage my disability in most areas of my life but I've recently become concerned about how it pertains to hooking up. My approach to hooking up is how I imagine most other people's must be: find someone who I can have a flowing conversation with, attempt to flirt with them, and then awkwardly make a move. But a few weeks ago at a party I was flirting with a girl when I suddenly realized that she was wasted. I had suspected that she was tipsy like myself but I didn't understand how far gone she was until she invited me outside and was unable to keep her balance while walking. What followed was a horrifyingly surreal exchange where I struggled to leave, she kept insisting that she wasn't drunk, and all the while she kept pressing against me. By the time I got away she was angry, people were staring, and I had history's most shameful erection. Prior to that night, I thought I could tell when someone was too drunk. I'd been certain about the agency of everyone I slept with. Now I have doubts about myself. Severe intoxication renders a person incapable of giving consent and taking advantage of someone that impaired is the same as rape in my mind. Am I a rapist? Was it wrong for me to participate in hookup culture as I struggle to read social signals?*

*Moral Blue Screen Of Death*

If your description of events is accurate, MBSOD, that shameful erection of yours — which was nowhere close to being history's most shameful erection (that distinction belongs to the erections on the Catholic priest who raped the most kids) — was an innocent, unconscious, physiological response to some highly awkward and clearly unwelcome bodily contact. Just because your dick got hard doesn't mean you were enjoying yourself. Again, if your recap is accurate: You were struggling to leave, and this drunk wouldn't stop pressing her body against yours? You were the victim, not the perp.

As for other women you've hooked up with at or after parties ...

The line between buzzed enough to go for it and too drunk to consent can be fuzzy and subjective. Some people argue that one drink renders a person incapable of consenting to sex. By that standard, nearly all of us — male and female and SOPATGS* — are guilty of raping scores of people. But sensible people recognize that alcohol functions as a social lubricant and an effective way to overcome social or sexual inhibitions, and that it's possible for two people (or more!) to have consensual sex after a drink or two or even three.

You say you have difficulty picking up on social cues, and you're now worried that you may have misread a previous hookup's ability to consent. I'm sorry to say that it's possible you hooked up with a girl who was completely shitfaced but, unlike that drunk girl at the party, was not giving off too-shitfaced-to-consent cues that you could pick up on. Since you can't go back in time and unfuck all the buzzed/tipsy/drunk girls with whom you've already hooked up, MBSOD, you can only resolve to be more cautious going forward.

If drunkenness is one of those social cues that you have a hard time reading, MBSOD, you're going to ask a friend for his or her read on the girl you met, or — better still — you're going to stick to dance-floor make-out sessions at parties and reserve getting naked for sober/soberer second or third dates. And when you do decide to really go for it, you're going to err on the side of making active, ongoing, explicit requests for consent, i.e., you're not going to "make moves," awkward or otherwise, you're going ask questions ("I'd really like to kiss you — that okay?") and keep asking questions ("Okay, I got the condoms out — you still wanna fuck?").

*I'm a 23-year-old gay male who was diagnosed four years ago with ADHD. The prescription that I've been taking has completely turned my life around. Within the course of my first batch of pills, I began to notice drastic changes. From the evaporation of my paralyzing academic anxiety to the willpower to practice better hygiene, medicated me has control over my actions. A side effect of this medication is a drastically increased libido. While I've always had kinky tastes in porn, it is only while on Dexedrine that I go on Recon and look for men to tie me up and dominate me. I've only ever pursued kink experiences under the influence of legal amphetamines. My confusion comes in the interpretation of these facts. Part of me feels like I should be wary of my kinky self because "sober" me wouldn't make the same sexual choices. The other part just wants to say "fuck it" and embrace my kinks, because the same high that makes me kinky also made it possible for me to graduate from college and practice good personal hygiene. Are my concerns valid?*

*Aroused Distractible Dominated*

You were looking at kinky porn before you got on meds and started hooking up with kinky guys, so your meds didn't make you kinky. Instead, your meds have had the same impact on your sex life that they had on your college career and your commitment to good personal hygiene: They gave you the ability to realize your dreams. Just as Sober You couldn't get your ass to class or into a shower, Sober You couldn't get your ass into a hot top's dungeon. Medicated You, on the other hand, gets shit done.

The question you should be asking yourself isn't "Is my meds-enhanced ability to make my kinky fantasies a reality a good or bad thing?" but rather "Am I being reckless about how I realize my kinky fantasies?"

If you're not taking unreasonable risks, ADD, and if you're employing best online hookup practices — you meet in public first; you know their real names and phone numbers; before heading to someone's place to get tied up, you tell a trusted friend where you're going, who you're with, and when they can expect to hear from you again — then this isn't a problem.

* Some other point along the gender spectrum. ●

*Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at TheStranger.com/savage*
mail@savagelove.net

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